

THE TIMES

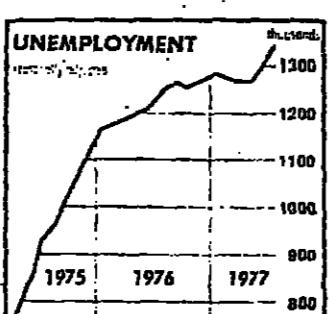
Unemployment jumps
sharply to a
total of 1,336,700

number out of work in Great Britain this month rose to 1,336,700, highest total since records were kept in 1948. This month the

unadjusted increase of 154,662 was mainly caused by school leavers who account for two-thirds of the total increase

School leavers cause 60% of rise

By Hugh Neary
Parliamentary Correspondent
Westminster



ing a phase of their formal education without ever having had full-time employment but are over the age of 18 and are thus not classified with other school leavers.

Some of these will either go on to another stage of education or find work. But many will be absorbed into the pool of long-term unemployed.

There are now more than a million people under the age of 60 who have been without work for more than four weeks.

Women have seen a sudden sharp increase in their unemployment rate. Three-quarters of the increase in the seasonally adjusted figures is accounted for by female unemployment, and the past five years have been marked by a dramatic increase in the proportion of women workers registered as unemployed.

Part of this is caused by changes in registration behaviour and part by public spending cuts eating into the sorts of jobs which women have traditionally held.

The unemployment rate among men, at 7.9 per cent, compares with 5.2 per cent for women. But the two figures are converging rapidly.

Among the official statistics differentiating between the various groups there is obvious competition between them for the limited number of jobs available, which is why the unemployment totals for adult workers now go up sharply whenever school-leavers come on to the labour market.

School-leavers take some of the jobs which would otherwise have gone to adults already on the unemployment register, and there are so few job opportunities around that even a limited instance of this eats deeply into adult prospects.

test records are likely to surpass before long. And most private sector suggests a further rise next 12 months, even if the round of pay negotiations relatively re-settlements.

Leavers are both the portant cause and the victims of the increase rise by 98,843 last

o 241,552.

6 to 18 year olds join

employment queue at the k, with the prospect for

at they will not learn a

number of vacancies fell by just over 5,000 on a seasonally adjusted basis last month, and the of vacancies notified offices which are the first ports of call for leavers, is down to 20,000.

There are fewer people in unemployment register month about 350,000 on the register, number leaving fell by

the last month. Figures are available on the limited numbers.

35,000 of the jobless, what might be better school leavers. See that they are end-

Central majority verdict is likely for wing pact with Government

Clark
correspondent
Majority decision and
personal reservations
Liberals are likely
their pact with the
it this week.

In particular he would expect the Liberals to bring the Government down if it failed to take a strong line against excessive wage claims in the public sector.

Basically, Mr Penhaligon was against the pact from the start. He has constituency difficulties, and his secret of the fact that he believes it would have been better to have had a general election in March rather than propping up Labour in office.

He, with Mr Smith, thinks that the agreement with Labour has been a "habitability to the Liberal Party, but he said that to come out of the pact now, without adequate reason, would inevitably bring the whole operation into question.

He does not see how the so-called "concessions" by the Government to the Liberal Party have helped to bring recruits to the Liberal banner. Mr Penhaligon thought Mr Steel should pitch his "Liberal" demands for next

agreement, while reserving the right to vote with the Government on "Liberal" measures. In effect, he would put the fate of the Government in its own hands.

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session so high that the Government would not be able to accept them, and that the party should choose a particular demand, on which the Liberals would have great public support as the issue on which to precipitate a general election.

In the general debate Mr Steel put his view strongly that the party had already won significant changes of policy out of the Government, in particular on taxation, on direct elections to the European Parliament, on devolution, and the abandonment of socialist measures. What now had to be decided was the list of demands to be put to Mr Callaghan and to examine his response.

The Liberals' new demands are centred on a Bill for co-partnership and profit-sharing in industry; a Bill on civil liberties; reform of the Official Secrets Acts; and progress in removing much of the income tax burden to indirect taxes.

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As Mr Steel put it: "The Government has always been fully and equally committed to the achievement of devolution for both countries, and we will

see that they are end-

to 10pc
d of year

Ad decline to an annual rate
by the end of the year,
the Price Commission. The
should start declining
and continue into the
Retail Price Index
different basis, might not
even by the spring

Page 21

attacked

General Council is likely
to report from its
emphasizing the
month interval between
tenants, but white-collar
workers and tobacco
attacked pay restraint

Page 22

Hoax penalties rise

New anti-terrorist laws to reinforce security in Northern Ireland will increase the sentence for bomb hoaxers to a fine of £1,000 and a maximum of five years' imprisonment.

Page 23

week alleged

Grunwick film-processing
in London, were Mr Roy
general secretary of Apex
an inquiry.

Page 24

'Distressed' judge
adjourns rape case

Judge King-Hamilton, QC, ordered a two-hour adjournment of a rape case at the Central Criminal Court because he was "distressed and angry". Later he sentenced three boys to be detained, one of them for 10 years.

Page 6

Fiat kidnap arrests

Spanish police have arrested seven Argentines in connection with the kidnapping of Signor Luciano Kellvi-Baumont, head of Fiat's French subsidiary. In Geneva, three quarters of the \$2m ransom paid for his release has been found in numbered bank accounts.

Page 6

Old people: A policy document is planned on needs of the aged. Mr Daniels, Secretary of State for Social Services, disclosed

Venice: Latest contribution towards solving of the city's problems envisages

as independent of local and bounded by a special statute to the EEC

Five News

Overseas News

Appointments

Arts

Business

Chess

Clock

Compt

Crossword

Diary

Engagements

Features

Law Report

Letters

Obituary

Parliament

Science

Weather

Sport

TV & Radio

Theatre, etc

Universities

Features

Wills

17, 22

19

14

19

19

19

19

19

19

19

19

19

19

19

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HOME NEWS

Unions attack wage restraint as TUC prepares to endorse 12-month gap between pay deals

By Christopher Thomas

Labour Reporter

With four days to go before phase two of the income policy expires, or at least begins to expire, the TUC General Council today will restate its determination to maintain a 12-month interval between principal pay settlements.

It will almost certainly endorse a report by its economic committee on pay and the economy, which emphasizes the need to keep to the 12-month rule.

Leaders of 170,000 white-collar engineering workers are insisting on negotiations to make claims on August 1 to restore and advance living standards, restore differentials, give equal pay to women and improve pensions, holidays, sick pay and other benefits.

In a policy statement the executive of the Technical, Administrative and Supervisory Section (Tas) of the engineers' union said: "In seven of the last eight years we have had wage restraint in one form or another. No prob-

lems have been solved and the economic crisis has deepened."

The Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunications and Printing Union (EETPU) declared support for the 12-month principle yesterday but said its public acceptance depended on government action on prices, taxation and public spending levels.

It made clear that only if the rule was applied universally would it succeed. It was the most practical way of implementing the policy agreed at last year's TUC conference for a planned return to free collective bargaining.

The Tobacco Workers' Union, whose executive voted 41 to four against further pay restraint, said companies in the industry were reporting record profits, but because of income policy the union had for two years been unable to negotiate for a share of the extra profits. It is seeking a shorter working week and longer holidays.

Mr C. D. Grieve, general secretary, said: "We will not try for the impossible, nor sub-

mit claims that would bankrupt companies, any more than we have done in the past.

What we will do is claim from our companies what we know they can afford."

The National Union of Firemen is to take part in an independent commission to evaluate pay based on skills and aptitudes as well as considering pay relativities to other workers. The recommendations will be put to a national delegate conference of the union.

A mass meeting of Southampton dockers gave shop stewards a mandate to take industrial action "if and when they feel it is necessary".

Twenty cargo ships have been turned away from Southampton in the past two months because dockers have banned some evening shift work, Saturday overtime and early morning starts. They are supporting the national docks claim for a 20 per cent rise and a local agreement to increase pay from £64 to £100 a week.

Tougher penalties for Ulster hoaxers

From Peter Godfrey

Belfast

Anyone making a hoax bomb or threatening murder in Northern Ireland will be liable to a prison sentence of up to 10 years under anti-terrorist laws approved by the Privy Council yesterday. Sentences for conspiracy to murder or to cause an explosion are also to be increased.

The penalty for placing a hoax bomb or sending a hoax bomb message will be a fine of £1,000 and up to three months imprisonment on summary conviction, and five years on indictment. A verbal threat to kill someone will be subject to a maximum prison sentence of 10 years.

The new laws are part of a security reinforcement programme announced last month by Mr Mason, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. Increased penalties for membership of proscribed organizations and the use of firearms or explosives are already in force.

Yesterday's anti-terrorist measures also increased the maximum sentence for conspiring or soliciting to commit murder from 10 years to life imprisonment. A similar term will apply to attempts or conspiracy to cause an explosion or make explosives with malicious intent, which formerly had a maximum sentence of 20 years.

"Loyalist" prisoners at the Maze jail threatened reprisals yesterday against restrictions on visiting imposed recently by prison officers protesting at the shooting of a colleague.

A statement issued on behalf of 200 prisoners by two proscribed loyalist groups, the Ulster Volunteer Force, and the Red Hand Commandos, warned prison officers that "their life within the prisons". They with passive submissiveness within the prisons" they demanded disciplinary action.

A shot was fired at the Port Monaghan security base in west Belfast yesterday, 90 minutes after Mr Mason had called on the Post Office said talks were still continuing.

Pressure from the executive committee of the Union of Post Office Workers started early in

Grunwick made into barricade against unions, inquiry told

By Robert Parker

The dispute at the Grunwick firm, the precision laboratory in north London, had been made from its trivial beginnings into a barricade against the advance of trade unions. Mr Stephen Sedley, for Brent Trades Council, said in his closing speech to the Scrutton inquiry yesterday.

He said the company was "fundamentally and doggedly anti-union, with no frills" and was involved in a much larger barricade than merely resisting the recognition of the Association of Professional, Executive Clerical and Computer Staff (Apec).

"This company has been made, by or with the willing connivance of Mr Ward [the managing director] into a barricade against the advance of trade unionism and collective bargaining," he said.

Mr Sedley maintained that Mr Ward's "professions of innocence" that he was not anti-union had crumbled under cross-examination. The company did not want a union because it did not want an advantageous position in the market supply of labour". He said:

"It is not slave labour, but it is very bad."

Mr Sedley said that until

recently the company's workers had been badly paid. The turnover of staff, on the evidence given by the company, was every reason why the workers should stand in the company's success.

Last August, Grunwick was paying a basic weekly rate of £28 while Kodak was paying £49.35 and Ibbid £38.85, in said.

Mr Ward, who criticized a Commons statement by Mr Lawrence Pavey, Labour MP for Brent South, that described Grunwick as a sweat shop, declined at the inquiry yesterday to produce minutes of board meetings during the dispute voluntarily.

Only after three years' service could workers claim three weeks' leave, and then they had to wait a further 12 months before they were actually allowed to take that amount of holiday.

On August 1974, everyone had been entitled to three weeks' leave, but Mr Sedley said that had then been made because of the abundant supply of labour". He said:

"It is not slave labour, but it is very bad."

Lord Justice Scrutton told Mr Ward: "Your answer is that you are not prepared to produce these minutes and you have given your reason that you do not wish Brent Trades Council and perhaps others to see them."

Mr Ward agreed with him that he had taken the view during the dispute that Grunwick workers did not wish to belong to a union not to have a union recognized as their bargaining agent.

In brief

Boy, 14, claims Channel record

David Morgan, aged 13, laid claim last night to the title of the youngest Channel swimmer. He swam from Dover to France in 11 hours, five minutes.

The record was previously held by an Egyptian girl in 1974. He was swimming in Folkestone in his pilot boat last night.

John Curry rests after attack

John Curry, the ice-skate-wrestler, was resting at his home under sedation yesterday after a attack on him in Earls Court Road, London, late on Sunday. Besides a bruised face, the Olympic champion hurt his back. On Monday night he could not finish his long show because of pain. Specialist has ordered him rest for two days, but he hopes to join his Theatre of Steel at the Palladium tomorrow on Friday.

Abba win court ban on 'pirates'

Abba, the Swedish pop group, yesterday won a High Court injunction preventing the VI Record and Tape Distributors Ltd from making and cassette, pending full trial, the copyright action or court order.

October start for Air Wales

Wales is to get its own national airline, starting October with a nine-seat craft. Air Wales Ltd has set up by DK Aviation, an aircraft sales organization at Grimsthorpe.

It is announced yesterday that it would be first flights from Rhosneigr (Cardiff) airport to North Wales, London Brussels and north-west France.

Wolds Way approved

Mr Howell, Minister of Sport, announced yesterday that the Secretary of State for the Environment has approved the Countryside Commission's proposals for a 100-mile route for the Wolds long-distance footpath between Filey and North Ferriby, north Humberside.

Kerb side bus tickets

London Transport passengers will buy tickets before-hire buses in an experiment speed things up. It is hoped to operate on Mondays to Friday for about six weeks.

Police board boat

After being tracked by helicopter a fishing boat boarded by police and fisheries officers as she tied up in mouth-harbour, near Beaumaris, last night.

Search nearly over

Most of the cargo of a ship had been unloaded by night from the 427-ton anchored in the Thessaloniki harbour. No guns or explosives had found.

Murder hunt begins

A murder hunt was launched after Marie Ann Stow, 30, had been battered to death in a be at her home in Grange Northampton, yesterday.

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Silk Cut with tobacco substitute.



The most sensible way to use tobacco substitute is to blend it with tobacco to produce a cigarette which the Government is prepared to define as low tar.

In the 14 years since Silk Cut first saw the light of day, we've been trying to find ways to make it lower in tar.

This year, the Government gave their agreement to a method of further reducing tar: cigarettes containing a proportion of tobacco substitute.

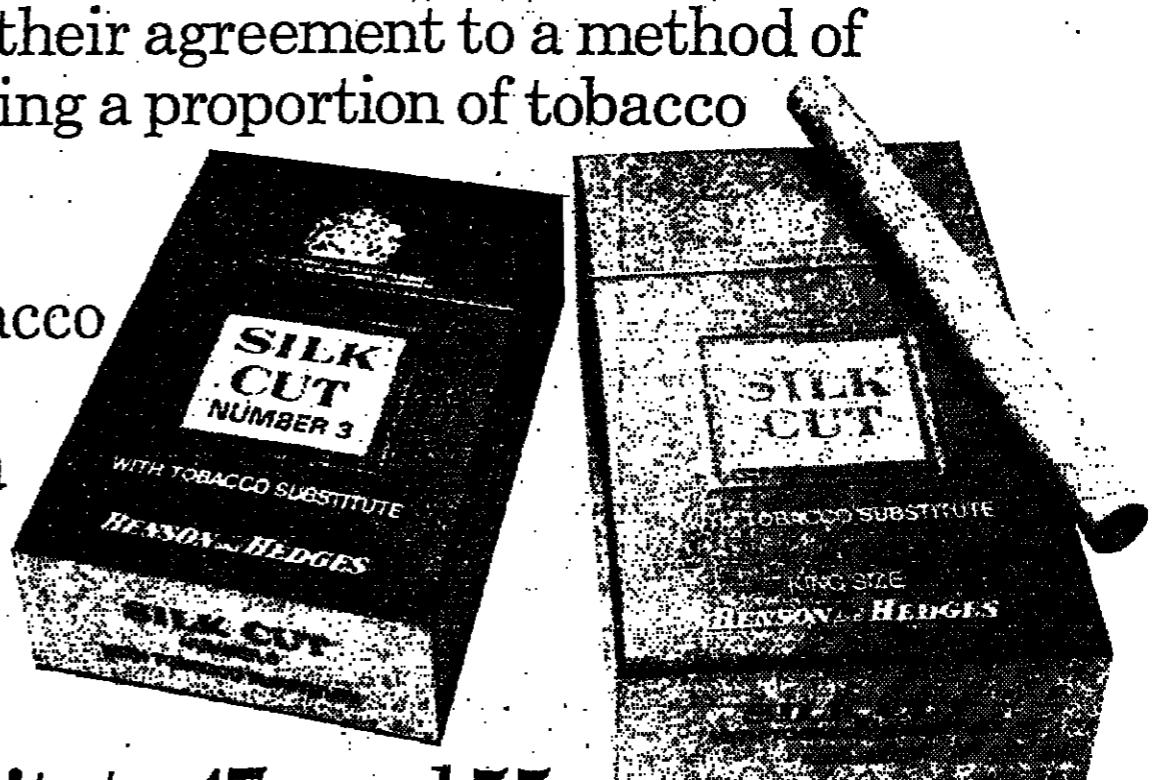
Hence our new cigarette.

It's a blend of three-quarters tobacco to one-quarter tobacco substitute.

Consequently, it offers smokers a touch more flavour than conventional Silk Cut. And, as you would expect, a touch less tar.

Silk Cut with tobacco substitute, 47p and 55p.

Recommended retail prices.



LOW TAR As defined by H.M. Government
EVERY PACKET CARRIES A GOVERNMENT HEALTH WARNING

HOME NEWS

Fresh food index rises by only 1.5% but Price Commission reports doubling of profits on potatoes

By Hugh Clayton

The increase in prices of fresh foods has slowed this year, the Price Commission said yesterday. Some profits, however, have risen. The commission said its fresh food index had risen by 1.5 per cent between February and May this year, compared with 4.5 per cent in the previous three months.

It attributed much of the drop to a fall of a quarter in the average price of potatoes but said that profits between farm and shop on potatoes had been slowed to fall. "The aggregate percentage gross margin has risen strongly this year from 60 per cent. This compared with figures in the range of 30 to 40 per cent during 1976," the commission said.

Gross margins between wholesale and shop prices on potatoes had risen from 22 per cent in the spring of 1976 to 26 per cent this year, while comparable profits on other fresh vegetables had fallen.

One of the most inflationary foods recorded by the commission was rice, an alternative to which families have turned

as a result of high potato prices. In the 12 months from May, 1976, Uncle Ben long-grain rice rose by almost 41 per cent and Whitworth by more than 47 per cent. Rice is not covered by British price controls since it is imported.

Cadbury's Smash instant potato rose by only 12 per cent in the same period, while Record long uncooked spaghetti increased by less than 10 per cent.

Details about fresh food are elusive because much of it is sold in shops too small to qualify for the Price Code rules on disclosure of financial results.

The commission's latest information, published yesterday in its second quarterly report of the year, will be added to the evidence ministers are gathering for use when the new price laws enable them to try to close loopholes left by the present ones.

The commission reported that grocerers made a gross profit of more than half on swedes and turnips in the final weeks of their season in the spring this year. Last year their profit

was 40 per cent, during 1976.

Business News, page 21

Food bulk-buying clubs proposed

By Robin Young
Consumer Affairs
Correspondent

Buying in bulk is almost the only way left for consumers to fight rising prices, according to the National Consumer Council. Today the council publishes a booklet summarizing the lessons of 13 months' experience in promoting bulk-buying cooperatives.

The council estimates that more than a quarter of Britain's shoppers already buy in bulk. "Yet the very people who need the benefits of bulk-buying most, the pensioners, the single-parent families, the large families on low incomes, are very often those who cannot afford

to buy in bulk, individually", it says.

The answer for them, the council says, is to form bulk buy clubs of 15 to 20 households, or 30 or more individuals.

The savings, they estimate, can be 34 per cent on fresh fruit and vegetables, 20 per cent on meat, and 12 per cent on processed foods and cleaning materials.

The booklet describes different ways of organizing clubs, drawing on the experiences of those already existing. Little equipment is required, it says, but transport is crucial.

The only other essential is a supply of bags, boxes and containers, but scales, a pocket calculator, refrigerators and



Sarah Worth, aged four, of Timperley, Greater Manchester, crowned Miss Pears 1977 yesterday.

'Lorry port' network proposed

By Michael Ball

The impact of heavy lorries on the urban environment could be materially reduced by a chain of freight complexes or "inland ports" in Britain's leading towns and cities, according to expert studies published yesterday. Transfer of freight from road to rail would also be encouraged.

Covering up to 25 acres on prime sites with good road and rail connections, each complex would offer facilities for shipment, storage, distribution, servicing and customs, and lorry parks, cafés and canteens. They would be developed and managed by commercial interests with strong local authority backing.

Two complexes are in an advanced stage of planning: at Neasden, in north-west London, and at Wakefield, in West Yorkshire. Other locations for an initial national network would be at Sutton Coldfield or Stourport, near Birmingham, Warrington (Cheshire), Glasgow, Newcastle, and Bristol.

The studies were made by the government-backed Lorries and the Environment Committee, composed of experts from transport and local government.

Introducing them, a London press conference yesterday, Sir Daniel Fenn, chairman of the National Freight Corporation, said such complexes could help to improve the efficiency of urban transport and to arrest the decay of inner-city areas. They could keep heavy lorries away from unsuitable urban roads, reduce total freight mileage, encourage the development of electric trucks for urban distribution, and reduce the environmental nuisance of off-street parking by heavy lorries.

Each complex could cost up to £5m, and should be commercially viable in the long term. Local authorities would help with planning permission and in other ways but would not compel industry and commerce to use them.

Freight Complexes and Direct Distribution (The Lorries and the Environment Committee), Great Portland Street, London, W1. £2.00.

Motorway subsidence

Speed restrictions have been imposed on a section of the Pontarddulais bypass section of the M4 in West Glamorgan, which has been affected by subsidence 12 weeks after its opening.

It states: "Our objective is to work towards the creation of a wider but much looser grouping of European states in which each country is able to realize its own economic and social objectives under the sovereignty of its own Parliament."

Mr Callaghan is expected to tell the national executive that he has called a Cabinet meeting.

For its 36th Film Meeting (October 19-29, 1977) MIFED will publish its usual Information Booklet which supplies film businessmen with many useful reference items: the names of firms represented, of all customers who will attend - buyers and sellers - and of films that will be available at the next MIFED Session.

The Information Booklet is an invaluable guide for customers whose business concerns the production and/or distribution of Cine-TV films.

For clarity of presentation and wealth of information the Booklet is regarded as a work of reference which goes far beyond the immediate business needs of the Market.

An advertisement in this Information Booklet involves only a small investment, but it is one which has always brought in big results.

ADVERTISING RATES

Inside page	U.S. \$100
Inside cover page	\$200
Inside back cover page	\$300
Back cover page in two colours	\$300

Advertisements should be booked and copy sent not later than September 10, 1977 to MIFED, Largo Domodossola 1, 20145 Milano (Italy), Tel: 46.78, Cables MIFED-Milano, Telex 37360 Fieramil.

He was speaking at a one-day seminar in London that will provide background for the document.

Mr Ennals said there were now 6,500,000 people aged over 65 in England alone, and the number was expected to be seven million by 1980. By 1990 there would be more than three million people aged over 75, and that increase was one of the most important social changes facing the community.

So far, 95 per cent of Britain's retired people had been enabled to remain in the

EEC issue crucial in clash over Labour's policies

By Our Political Reporter

The Labour Party's National Executive Committee will embark on what is expected to be a marathon session today to debate a host of documents, many of which depart from government policy.

A campaign document due to go to the party conference for approval is critical of some aspects of government economic strategy. It alleges clumsy mismanagement of sterling by the Bank of England and the Treasury and states that the national executive does not share the government's view that general import controls would have led to retaliation.

Another manifesto document on defence calls for further cuts. It will meet fierce resistance from Mr Mulay, Secretary of State for Defence, who is a member of the national executive.

Another manifesto document on defence calls for further cuts. It will meet fierce resistance from Mr Mulay, Secretary of State for Defence, who is a member of the national executive.

Deputies in particular were criticised, both for failing to visit old people, although they receive extra fees for having them on their registers, and for contributing to old people's ill health by prescribing too many drugs with side-effects.

Mrs Jean Robinson, of the Patients' Association, called for a change from the "fashionable" areas of medicine such as cardiology and neurology, to geriatrics. He said

more young doctors were choosing geriatrics as a speciality and urged Mr Ennals to encourage that trend.

Other speakers indicated that they were not as sanguine as Mr Ennals about the quality of the services for meeting the needs of elderly people in the community.

Deputies in particular were criticised, both for failing to visit old people, although they receive extra fees for having them on their registers, and for contributing to old people's ill health by prescribing too many drugs with side-effects.

Mrs Jean Robinson, of the Patients' Association, called for a big education programme in geriatric medicine for GPs to stop them making old people

Selection of big science projects to be examined

By Pearce Wright
Science Editor

An examination of the way science-based research projects have been chosen for support within government money over the past 30 years is to be made by the science policy research unit of Sussex University.

The investigation will pay particular attention to six centres to which the Science Research Council contributes substantial sums for work that is often referred to as big science.

The centres include three for

high-energy nuclear physics:

the Rutherford and Daresbury

laboratories in Britain, and the

European Nuclear Research

Centre at Geneva; the Mullard

Radio Astronomy Laboratories

at Manchester University, at

Jodrell Bank; the Mullard

Radio Astronomy Observatory,

Cambridge University, and the

Isaac Newton optical telescope

in Australia at the Royal Green-

wich Observatory.

About £50m a year is spent

by the Science Research Council

on certain big science projects

which call for large capital

spending on special apparatus

and for high operating costs of

a central laboratory and

supporting services needed to

house such equipment.

Yet a report submitted from

Sussex University to the Social

Science Research Council

explains a need for a better

understanding of the process

whereby money for research is

allocated and of the effective-

ness with which resources are

used.

In fact the case for closer

scrutiny was identified recently

by Sir Frederick Dainton, chair-

man of the University Grants

Committee, to the Commons Select Committee on Science and Technology.

The submission to the Social

Science Research Council, which has been approved for a

£26,000 grant over two years,

argues that hard choices will

have to be made increasingly

between the so-called "big

science and the rest of science

because of cuts in money for

research.

The Science Research Coun-

cil, which allocates more than

£100m a year for fundamental

research, has seen a budget

growing at 13 per cent a year in

the mid-sixties sharply cut.

It is now expected to decline

by 2 per cent a year.

That inevitably makes more

difficult the task of choosing

between support for a few big

schemes and those from more

than two thousand individual

applications a year for post-

graduate research support.

In addition to examining the

established large centres listed

above, the intention is to look

at two or three recent pro-

posals, such as a new laser facil-

ity and a new installation to

provide a high flux neutron beam.

Those new centres differ

from the longer established

ones because they are intended

for multi-purpose work. Com-

parison will also be made with

international practice.

The Science Research Coun-

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£100m a year for fundamental

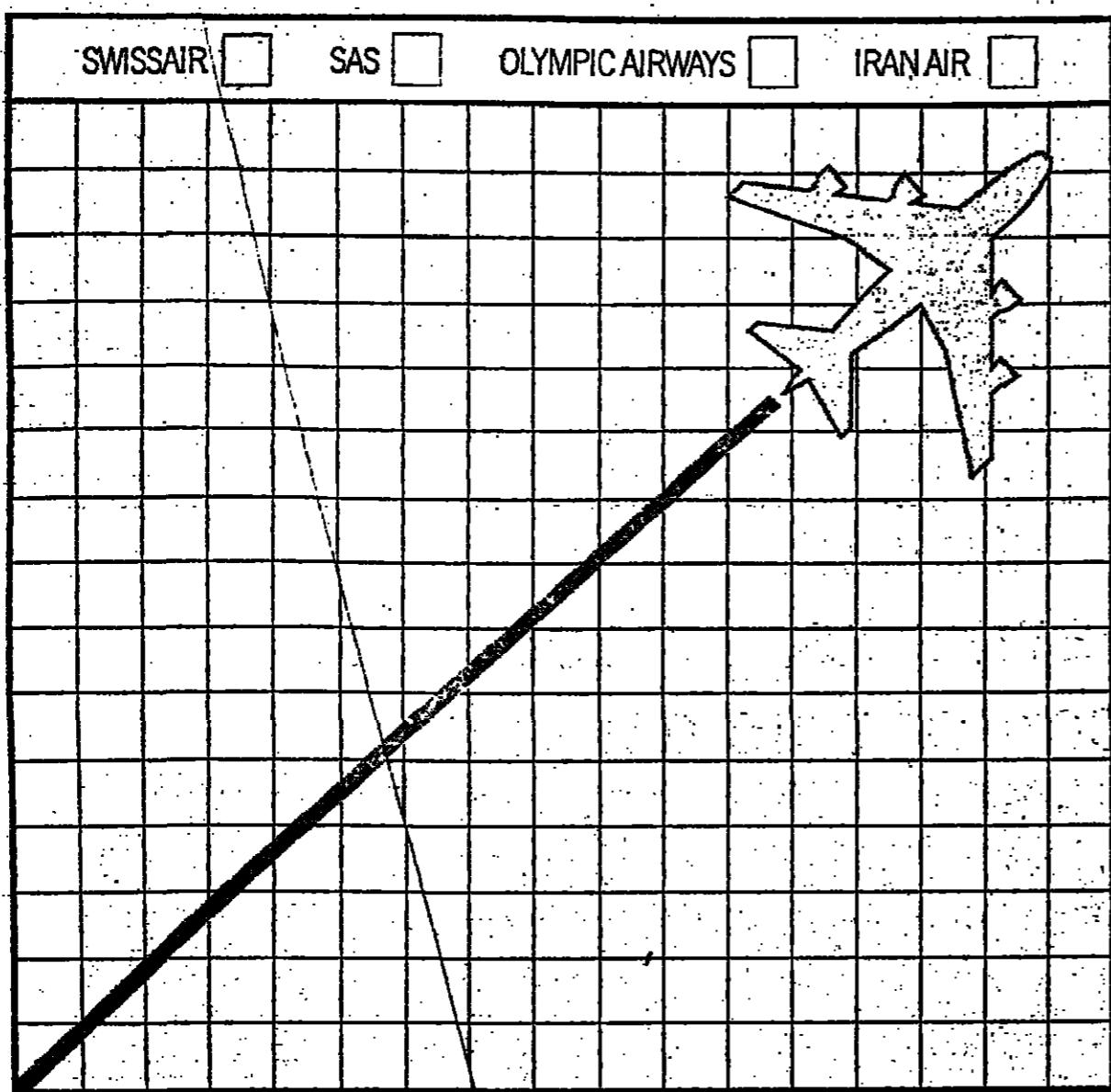
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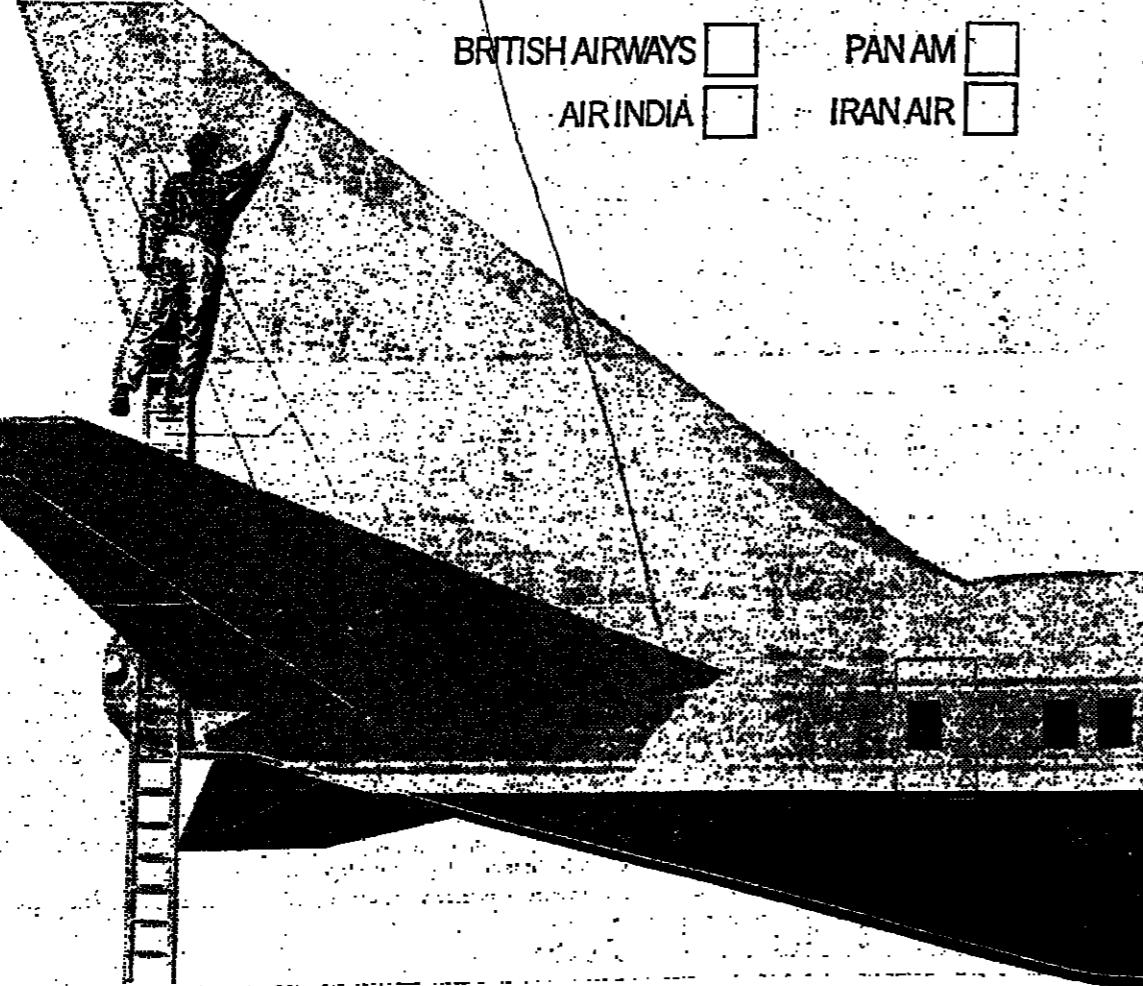
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JULY 27 1977

Guess which is the world's fastest growing airline?

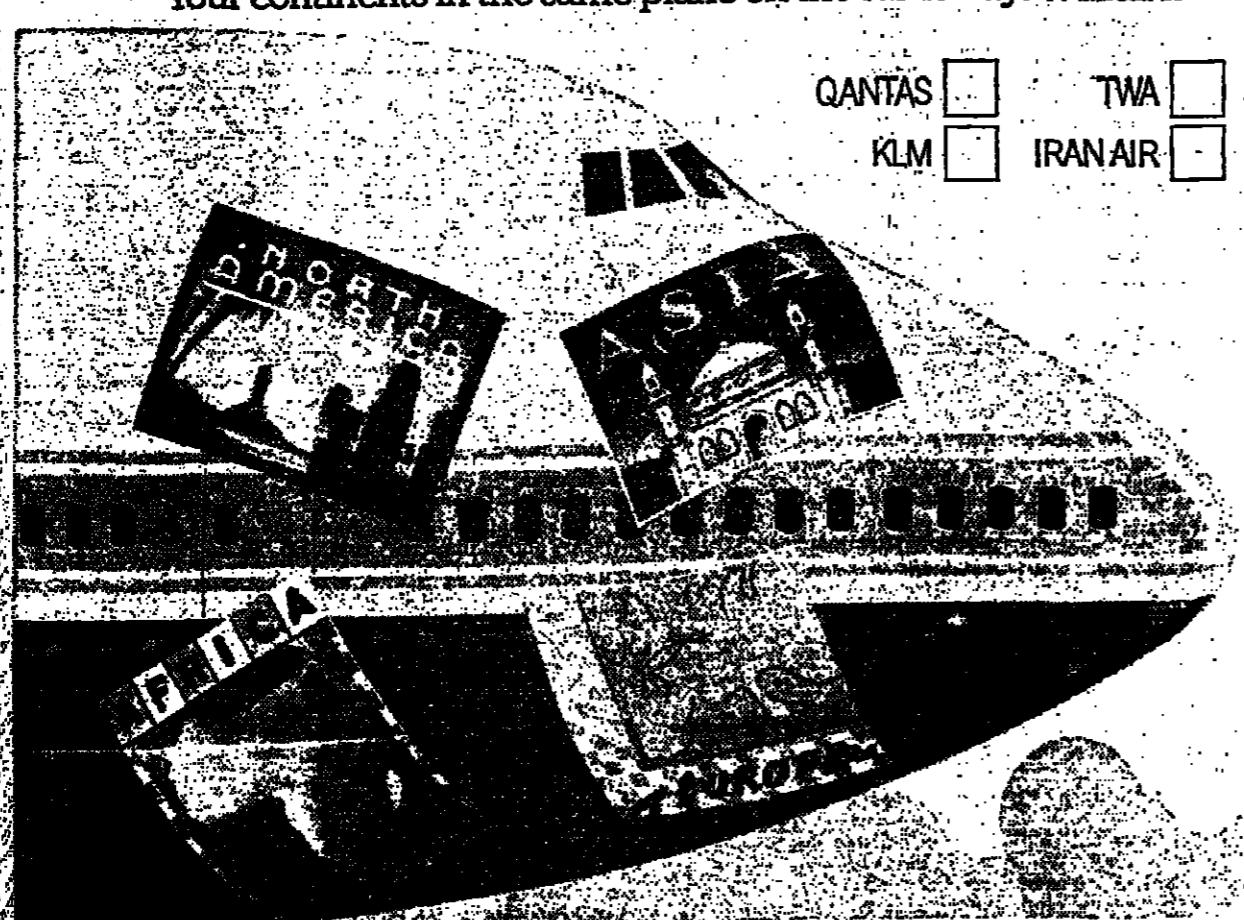


Only one of these airlines operates the longest non-stop scheduled flight? Which one?

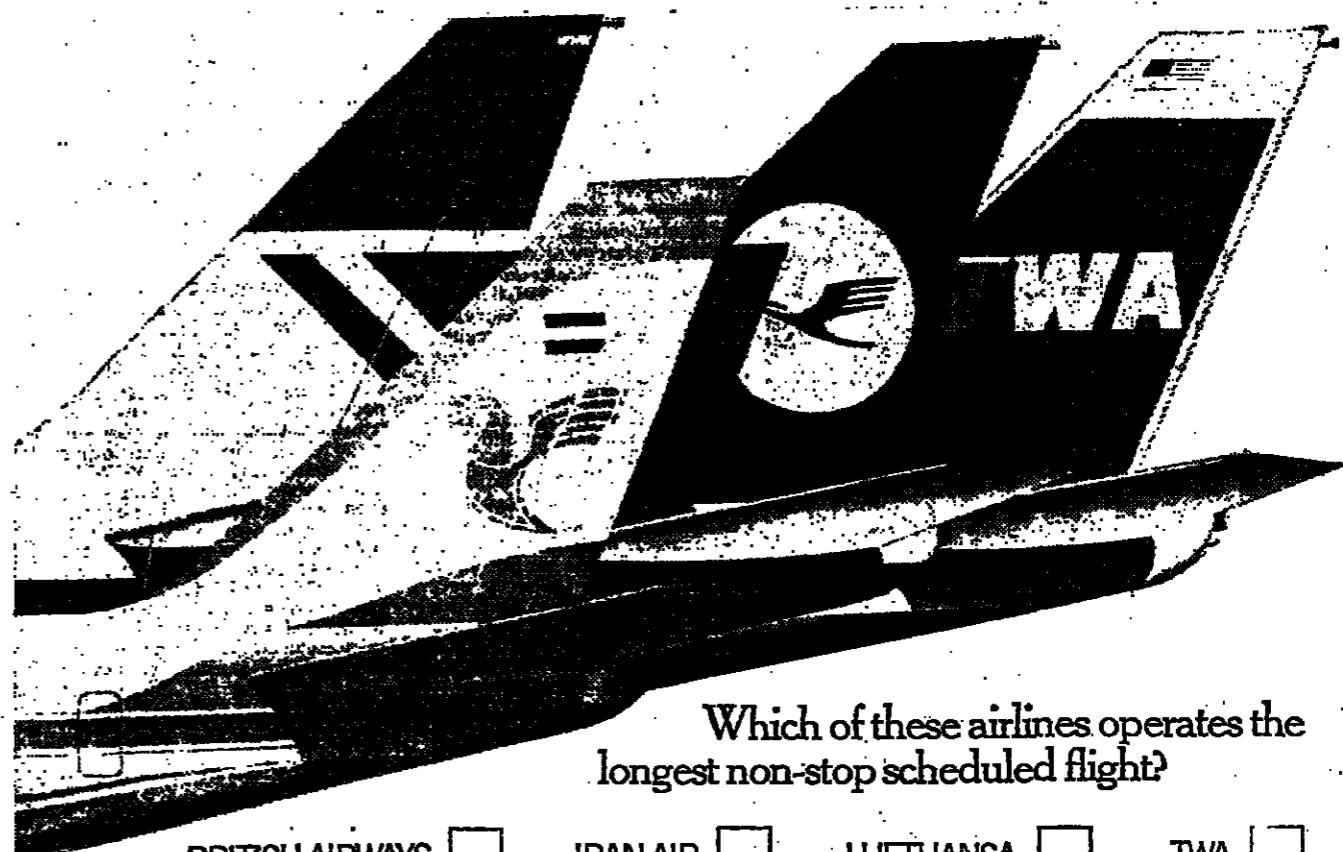


Only one of these airlines flies the most comfortable plane in the sky, the new 747SP, on regular schedule between London and New York. Which one?

BRITISH AIRWAYS PAN AM
AIR INDIA IRAN AIR

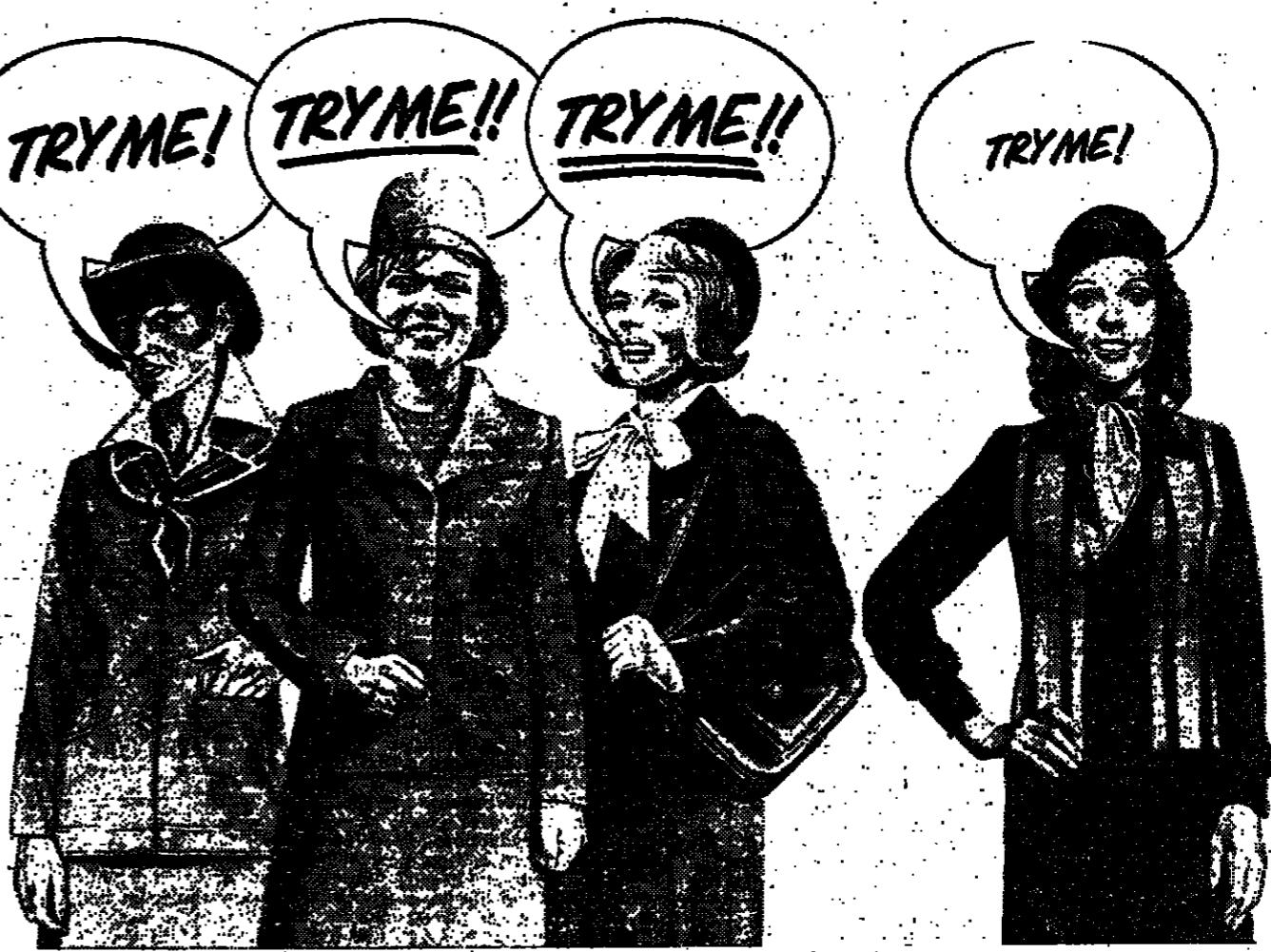


QANTAS TWA
KLM IRAN AIR



Which of these airlines operates the longest non-stop scheduled flight? BRITISH AIRWAYS IRAN AIR LUFTHANSA TWA

Only one of these airlines flies to London, New York, Moscow, Peking and Tokyo. Which is it?



PAN AM LUFTHANSA BRITISH AIRWAYS IRAN AIR

The world's fastest growing airline, believe it or not, is Iran Air. It really is.

For instance, every year for the past five years we've bought more new planes. (This year, we take delivery of our new 747-200Bs. The very latest Jumbo.)

And every year for the last five years we've flown more passengers to more destinations.

So that today you can fly Iran Air to any one of twenty seven major cities throughout the world. (Including, by the way, London, New York, Moscow, Peking, and Tokyo.)

If the flight takes your fancy, Iran Air can also fly you to four different continents, in the same plane on the same day. (Tehran to Cairo, on to Paris, finishing up in New York.)

Quite a hop.

Do it in reverse though, New York to Tehran, and you'll experience one of the longest non-stop scheduled flights ever.

Over 6,200 miles.

A distance covered with ease by Iran Air's new 747SP.

The 'Special Performer' Jumbo.

It flies a mile above normal air routes. A mile above the bad weather.

Making it the most comfortable plane in the air.

And that's not pie in the sky. It's a fact. Like everything else on this page.

IRAN AIR
The world's fastest growing airline.

HOME NEWS

Judge, 'distressed and angry', adjourns rape case for two hours

By Clive Borrell

Three schoolboys were ordered to be detained, one of them for 10 years, another for eight and the third for six years, by Judge King-Hamilton, QC, at the Central Criminal Court yesterday when he pleaded guilty to raping a girl of 14. Two of the boys are now aged 16 and the other 15.

After hearing the evidence by Miss Ann Curnow, for the prosecution, the judge postponed sentence for two hours, saying: "I feel so distressed and so angry as a result of what I have heard about this case that I would not trust myself in my present state of mind to pass a proper sentence."

"I need time to cool down. I cannot recall ever having heard such a case, and I have had considerable experience both as a Bar and in my present office on the Bench."

While the adjournment took place reports on the three boys' social background were prepared. The prosecution had accepted earlier their pleas of not guilty to allowing unnamed men to commit sexual offences on the girl because they did not want her to face having to give evidence.

The three men watched the boys raping the girl and then joined in, Miss Curnow said. She added: "This case arises

from night in the course of which to put it at its least these boys behaved like animals, if that is not demeaning the word 'animals'."

Det Constable Leslie Hewitt said: "As far as the girl is concerned she is a long way from being a normal 14-year-old now, and will take some time for her to become normal if she ever will. She cannot and will not leave home or go out without her parents or a friend."

Miss Curnow said the three boys, led by the eldest of the group, who had pornographic books in his possession, pounced on the girl and dragged her to Millfields, Clapton, east London, where she was stripped and pinned to the ground. While she screamed the three boys had intercourse with her and committed other sexual acts.

Three complete strangers, all men aged about 30, joined in the sexual attack on her. While one man had intercourse and another performed an unnatural and from then on "it became a complete blur for the girl". After the three men had left each of the three boys then raped her again and finally urinated over her.

As they left the girl the eldest of the three boys said he would break her neck if she talked.

Miss Curnow said that when the three boys in the dock made their statements not one had a single expression of remorse or care as to how the girl was.

After hearing speeches in mitigation, Judge King-Hamilton said: "Prosecuting counsel was right to describe your behaviour as being an insult to animals. I can think of no creature in the animal kingdom that would have debased itself as you did that night."

"There is strong evidence to suggest that pornographic literature found at the home of one of you (the eldest boy, who was sent to prison for 10 years) may have had, and in this case almost certainly did have, a corrupting influence contrary to the theory that is so often advanced in these courts."

Judge King-Hamilton: Time to cool down.

Parents view school hit by vandals

A South Wales school held a course on vandalism yesterday, with Mrs Merita James, the headmistress, fighting back tears as she surveyed damage to classrooms estimated at several thousand pounds.

The new £140,000 Glynaer Primary School, in the Rhymney Valley, Mid Glamorgan, opened its doors to parents and children to see for themselves the results of destruction by vandals over the weekend.

The secretary's office was broken, ransacked that it looked as if it had been struck by a whirlwind and there was a trail of destruction through other rooms, with gallons of paint daubed on walls and floor. Fire hoses were used to flood the hall and the kitchen was covered with food sprayed from a large mixer. Windows were broken, telephones ripped out, furniture broken and a two-foot pole smashed through the head-mistress's wooden door.

"The kids who did this ought to be made to clean it up," said Mrs Denise Howe, mother of two children at the school. "It's absolutely disgusting."

Mrs Valerie Baker said: "If they are old enough to make this mess, they should be old enough to take responsibility for it. But all the courts will do is say they are naughty boys and fine them, and the parents won't be able to afford to pay."

Mr Howard Edwards, education welfare officer, said empty cider bottles had been found in the school. "It is almost as if the kids went berserk," he said, "and if they had been drinking cider, they could not have been so drunk. Even the police were shocked."

Three juveniles are being interviewed by the police.

Britain urged to fish the South Atlantic

By Ronald Kershaw

The answer to Britain's fishing difficulties is exploitation of the South Atlantic, according to Mr David Toulson, of Leeds, an executive member of the Confederation of Fried Fish Caterers' Associations.

He will put that view to a meeting of the Falkland Islands committee at the House of Commons tomorrow. He will advocate the immediate declaration by Britain of its claims round all her South Atlantic possessions, including Ascension Island, St Helena, Tristan da Cunha, the Falkland Islands, Gough Island, South Georgia, and the South Sandwich Islands groups.

Mr Toulson, who knows the area well, appears to be something of a lone voice crying in the wilderness, but has yet to have his theories disproved. He says there are commercial quantities of mackerel, herring, sprat, hake, mackerel, and other species in the South Atlantic, which, with a little imagination and planning, could occupy the British fishing fleet displaced from present distant water fishing grounds.

He maintains that, with acceptable expenditure on a harbour and runway extensions to the Falkland Islands airport, for ex-

changing trawler crews by air, a whole new fishing industry could be established in the South Atlantic.

Mr Toulson says the Russians, East Germans, Japanese, Poles and West Germans have research ships in the South Atlantic gathering information with view to exploiting the seas there.

The British Fishing Federation, Mr Toulson claims, with a certain amount of concern. While it acknowledges the existence of fish, the main reservations appear to be the uncertainty of the political situation with Argentina, whether acceptable species of fish are there in commercial quantities, and whether a South Atlantic operation of the kind visualized by Mr Toulson would be an economic proposition bearing in mind the onshore facilities required for processing and freezing catches.

The British Fishing Federation will be represented at tomorrow's meeting, which is being sponsored by Mr James Johnson, Labour MP for Kingston upon Hull, West.

WEST EUROPE

The case for an independent Venice

From Peter Nichols

Rome, July 26—The latest contributions towards solving Venice's problems envisages the city divorced from Italy and bound by a special statute directly to the European community.

This proposal is the most striking suggestion of Sandro Meccholi, Italy's leading journalist on Venetian matters, who has just published in book form a series of dispatches written over 10 years for *Cronaca della Sera di Milano*.

He calls his collection *La Battaglia per Venezia*, beginning his account of the city's travel with the great flood of 1966 which laid bare the disastrous condition to which it had been reduced by neglect and as a result of the industrialization of the neighbouring mainland.

He has a preface from Signor Bruno Visentini who in the past few years has combined such activities as being chairman of Olivetti and for a time Minister of Finance, with playing a leading part in the battle for Venice's salvation.

Signor Meccholi is Venetian himself and his sense of local patriotism no doubt helps him to conclude that Venice deserves better than what Italy has done for it and that it could, indeed, do better still without the Italian connexion.

He points out that the city's credit-worthiness is higher than Italy's: "The loan of \$500m (£300m) which Italy for months anxiously and ignorantly implored from the International Monetary Fund is exactly the sum which Italy easily obtained in London in September, 1973, giving the banks concerned to believe that the money was for Venice". He feels that Italy's great failure is in planning and so it cannot deal with Venice's needs.

The cost of restoring houses in Venice is at least one and a half times that of new constructions and the same can be paid for the maintenance, in general, of the city. The Italy of today is not in a position either in financial or in terms of managerial capacity to support a cultural importance of Venice. He describes a large part of the Christian Democratic defeat in the last regional elections to the shrewd Communist policy of insistence on cultural matters.

He answers sceptics in these terms: "In the future Europe, which will be increasingly a Europe of regions and municipalities rather than the parades so dear to General de Gaulle, I do not see why the island of Venice could not have a statute *sui generis* attaching it directly to the European Community, in line with the European and Mediterranean rather than Italian tradition of Venetian civilization".

His criticism of the special law intended to save Venice with international funds is factual. One of the few more



Wooden buttresses shoring up the Ponte Capello, one of five Venetian bridges damaged last year by the earthquake centred in the Friuli region.

shared by Signor Visentini: "extravagant" passage comes from an interview with Signor Giuri, now over 80, a financier who was briefly Minister of Communications under Musolini, and one of the original promoters of the Communists and the Communists are now more aware than in the past of the cultural importance of Venice.

He describes a large part of the Christian Democratic defeat in the last regional elections to the shrewd Communist policy of insistence on cultural matters.

After two years of leftwing rule, however, he sees little good emerging from the change: "If things go on as they are, the Communists and Socialists in Venice will be heading for a failure of such proportions as to overshadow their achievements in Bolzano".

Signor Meccholi and Signor Visentini between them explain with lucidity the nature of Venice's problems, both avoiding the excessive emotionalism which frequently accompanies the subject.

The disparities are notably

between Signor Giuri tells him. "That a man must have the courage to recognize his own errors. The motor bridge was a colossal error and I would be happy today to be able to destroy it with my own hands."

The book reflects indirectly several facets of present Italian thinking. The idea of the regions on which Signor Meccholi bases his solution for Venice is taking shape among some serious Europeans.

It is coincidental that President Leone signed yesterday the decree defining the relationship between the central powers and the regions. Italy's regional structure is complete and even before the decree was drafted, some regions had raised the idea of direct relations with the European Community.

After a meeting of leftwing rule, however, he sees little good emerging from the change: "If things go on as they are, the Communists and Socialists in Venice will be heading for a failure of such proportions as to overshadow their achievements in Bolzano".

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Spanish trade unions attack new economic measures

From Our Correspondent

Madrid, July 26

The attitude of the trade unions to the Government's economic measures became clearer today as Spaniards returned to work and the new Cortes (Parliament) was seated after the long weekend commemorating the country's saint's day.

Writing in *Informaciones*, Señor Marcelino Camacho, the leader of the Communist-dominated Workers' Commissions, the largest trade union, said that the proposed limit on wage increases of 50,000 pesetas (£340) a year for everyone was unrealistic when contrasted to the recent price increases and the rate of inflation currently running at about 30 per cent.

Despite your age, the protection of the public must take prior claim in any sentence I pass, the judge told Mann. He was twice convicted in 1972 for assaults and later had convictions for assaulting the police, wounding with intent causing grievous bodily harm and arson.

A medical report disclosed no psychiatric illness.

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The British Fishing Federation will be represented at tomorrow's meeting, which is being sponsored by Mr James Johnson, Labour MP for Kingston upon Hull, West.

Signor Visentini proposed a "government of national concord" to get Spain out of its economic difficulties. This means that Socialists and Communists would form part of the Government—but the idea-

appears rather utopian at the moment.

Signor Nicholas Rendondo, the secretary-general of the General Union of Workers, the trade union wing of the Spanish Workers' Socialist Party, also rejected the 50,000-peseta wage idea, which represents about a 17 per cent increase for the average worker.

Trade union leaders have been given to understand in their talks with the Government that inflation will be reduced to about 17 per cent a year, which they view as somewhat optimistic.

But as the two organizations embrace only a small portion of the 13 million workforce their bargaining power is rather minimal. Civil servants were allowed to form trade unions starting today, bringing them in line with other workers.

The Madrid Stock Exchange, which opened today for the first time since the Government's economic plan was announced, dropped to its lowest point this year. The index stood at 83.69 last Friday, and fell to 82.59 today reflecting the concern of employers.

Corsica 'census'

Bastia, July 26.—The Corsican People's Union will issue Corsican identity cards at a mass meeting here on August 14, a first step in a census of all Corsican people here or abroad.

Nudists daubed

Ajaccio, July 26.—Nude sunbathers were daubed with paint, and the chairs off a beach by the mayor and councillors of Ollioules.

EEC code on business in South Africa delayed

From Our Own Correspondent

Brussels, July 26

The EEC's plan to establish a code of conduct for European countries operating in South Africa has run into serious practical difficulties. It is now clear that the Nine will not be in a position to make any specific proposals, as had been agreed at the conference of heads of state in Lagos at the end of August.

Speaking to journalists after a meeting of EEC foreign ministers, Mr Henry Simons, president of the Council of Ministers, said: "We are still in a position to make any specific proposals, as had been agreed at the conference of heads of state in Lagos at the end of August.

Mr Simons said that the intention was that officials should continue their work on the matter in the hope that the

conference of heads of state in Lagos will be able to say what they have in mind in more detail at the General Assembly of the United Nations in September.

The initiative on South Africa was launched by Dr David Owen, the Foreign Secretary, earlier this month.

The aim of the code of conduct would be to prohibit discrimination in the level of wages paid to blacks and whites and to secure trade union recognition for black workers.

Participants in today's meeting confessed that the practical difficulties involved in establishing the proposed code now seemed more formidable than a few weeks ago.

Mr Simons refused to disclose the outcome of the Lagos meeting.

Mr Simons will say in Lagos, but the text is known to go much less far than some member states would have liked.

Strange murder hunt ends in West Germany

From Michael Horisty

Brussels, July 26

Dr Paul Rehut drew up the design blueprint for the JET between 1974 and 1975. Since then, they have had no job to do because of the delay in deciding where the experimental device should be built.

Some of the Citham-based scientists have already drifted away to more lucrative and challenging work elsewhere, and the director of the rival American fusion-research programme at Princeton, New Jersey, has sent a cable to his EEC counterpart offering jobs to the remaining members of the Citham-based team.

Dr Rehut said that the important thing was that "the people in Citham should be convinced that there will be a decision in September". His message to them was that they should stay and accept an extension of their contract.

Most of today's discussions over the JET issue took place over lunch, during which Mr Simons conducted what one participant described as "a limited and private meeting of heads" on the questions of the best site for the project.

Speaking to the press afterwards, Mr Simons said that

no significant majority had emerged in favour of Citham or Garching, which could serve as the basis for a decision on the site.

The minister had not been put to formal vote.

Unofficial assessments of the discussions were in general agreement that a slender majority of the foreign ministers favoured Citham; a significant minority were still undecided and a much smaller minority supported Garching.

Observers here believe that the decision will be taken in favour of Citham and to win round staunch champions of Garching inside the West German Cabinet.

Dr Rehut continued to offer the best site to the German government, and the British government, which has a strong interest in the project, has accepted the offer.

Like the recent pilgrimages of other Europeans to the American capital, Signor Andreotti is not expected to produce dramatic demands to resolve the dispute between the two countries. This contrasts with his previous visit last December, when he was seeking American support for a loan from the International Monetary



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DOING BETTER ON DEVOLUTION

Whether any legislation on devolution reaches the statute book in the course of this Parliament will depend on a number of factors, not all of them by any means related to the merits of the legislation itself. But the revised proposals which the Government put forward yesterday give in a number of respects a distinct improvement on the Scotland and Wales Bill that was killed in the House of Commons session. The decision to have separate Bills for Scotland and Wales had been generally expected. It is wise partly because the schemes proposed for the two countries are different and there were complications in bringing them together in the Bill, but more particularly because the case for devolution is so much stronger for Scotland than it is for Wales. It is right therefore that it should be possible to vote in principle for Scottish devolution without at the same time voting in principle for Welsh devolution.

The most important improvement, however, is over the financing of the assemblies. It is most regrettable that there is still no intention to give them any power to raise their own taxes. This has been deemed to be impractical for a variety of reasons. In the case of income tax, which offers the most attractive proposition—the assemblies could raise quite a bit of money if they were given the right to vary the rate at the margin—the objection is that the extra administrative cost would be prohibitive. One may question this and it is much to be hoped that any future assembly will do so vigorously. It will need on grounds of principle and prudence to be able to raise some money by its own decision and at least the Government are now saying that this will be a matter for discussion with the assemblies.

But while the Government are insisting that the assemblies must be financed entirely by block grants from the Exchequer, they have made a notable concession over the

method by which the size of the grants should be determined. Whereas the previous intention was that this should be settled by annual negotiation with the assemblies, which was a prescription for an annual haggling match with all the political dangers that would involve, it is now proposed that there should be a formula to be worked out probably at four-yearly intervals to determine relative need between Scotland and Wales and the rest of the United Kingdom. The proportion of United Kingdom public expenditure in the fields of devolved responsibility that would go to Scotland and Wales would then be fixed according to this formula. Such an arrangement would not remove all political dispute as to how much money should go to Scotland and Wales. Nothing could do that. But it does mean that the arguments should be less frequent and should be related to the objective measurement of need rather than being simply a trial of political strength. This change, which has been advocated for some time in articles in *The Times*, is much more than an administrative detail.

The arrangements for dividing responsibilities between Westminster and the assemblies are also rather better. Ideally, the Bill should specify the powers to be retained by Westminster and leave the Scottish assembly free to legislate or anything else. But as it is, apparently the Government's fixed intention to do it the other way round, it is at least an improvement that becomes the familiar complaint that the over-representation of Scotland and Wales is to remain. That is absurd. It feeds the resentment of English members and puts a necessary measure of constitutional reform at risk simply for the sake of narrow party advantage. The Government will have to adopt a somewhat more elevated attitude on this point if they are to pilot through Parliament Bills that are bound to remain exceedingly contentious.

Finally, there is what has become the familiar complaint that there should be fewer pettifogging restrictions—even though there will still be too many. It has also now been made clear for the first time that the Government's general reserve powers will be used only in cases where the Government are impeded in exercising their responsibilities in fields that have not been devolved. In other words, there will be no interference, for example, with decisions in Scottish education

SIGNOR ANDREOTTI'S TASK OF EXPLANATION

The visits of Italian prime ministers are not traditionally the most exciting moments in the Washington diplomatic calendar, though they can provide a useful occasion for an incumbent President of the United States to make remarks about halo-American friendship which will warm the hearts of Italian-American voters. There are usually no great pitfalls excepting danger that the President will forget the Italian prime minister's name.

The danger should not arise in the present case. Signor Andreotti has been in office longer than the President himself, and Mr Carter has already set him at the London economic summit in May. Moreover, Italy in the past two years or so has moved higher up the scale of American preoccupations. A new and a new problem has entered the vocabulary of American foreign policy: Eurocommunism. Essentially, this problem consists of a series of questions about the possibility that Communists may enter government in either France or Italy; how likely is it to happen? Is there anything we can do to stop it? What are the likely implications if it does happen, and how should we react?

The same questions, of course, are asked in the foreign ministries of Italy's European partners, including Britain. But it is the American reaction that aliens pay most attention to, eliciting that the United States—the power most likely to have both the power and the will to impose a veto. They may be wrong about this, for while the Americans certainly worry about Europe, whatever happens there obviously not so important to them as it is to us. Besides, they have grown more sceptical about their own power to influence events in distant countries, and are inclined to look for a lead

to their known and trusted friends in the region concerned.

All this could give the British reaction (if Britain is still capable of formulating a collective reaction) some importance, and it certainly gives the West German reaction an even greater importance than it already has. The Germans, with the United States, are Italy's main creditors, as well as the strongest power in the European Community. They are also the West European nation least likely to take a relaxed view of any sort of communism coming into government anywhere in their vicinity.

But that of course is not to say that the American reaction does not matter, or that the Americans are no longer interested in the problem. Signor Andreotti would certainly expect to be questioned by Mr Carter and his advisers in some detail about the recent agreement on a programme of legislation between his own party, the Christian Democrats, and five other parties including the Communists.

He will be explaining, as he did last week in Paris to President Giscard d'Estrées, that this agreement not only has not set up a coalition government but is not intended—or at least not by the Christian Democrats—as a step towards one. Indeed the Government, composed of Christian Democrats only, is technically not even a party to the agreement, which is an agreement between parties about how their representatives will vote in parliament on specific pieces of legislation. The Government is not seeking to win the confidence of the Communist deputies—indeed if it has all but imploded, not to support it in votes of confidence—but it can only welcome the cooperative attitude they are showing in helping to pass legislation, which, in its view, is essential if Italy is to be rescued

But what is most significant is that Dr Burgess does not even try to answer my point about the need for young peers to do much of the routine work of the House, particularly from the two Front Benches. In the nature of things, men in their twenties and thirties rarely have established reputations, except of course in sport. How then are these necessary younger members of the Upper House to be selected, without unwholesome suspicions of favouritism, nepotism etc. The "accident of birth" maintains a supply of men to these age groups who are willing to undertake this hard and necessary work which, except in the case of Ministers, attracts no more than a modest allowance for expenses.

It may even be that they undertake it because they have inherited with their titles a sense of public duty. Moreover, they do it well. And before Dr Burgess sacrificed them to his idea that to be considered at a particular time to be "anachronistic" is to be wrong, it is really up to him to tell us how and with whom he would replace them. Perhaps he thinks that places in the

Lords, like substantial wealth, could be more readily disbursed by the route of a win on the football pitch!

I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,

BOYD-CARPENTER,
House of Lords.

Architects' conduct

From Mr Howard Tozer

Sir, Architects may not advertise their services until the proposed change in the RIBA Code of Professional Conduct is approved by the Architects Registration Council of the United Kingdom.

Many architects will hope that ARCUK refuse; particularly as the majority of branches and regions of the RIBA were opposed to the change.

I am apalled that Council of my institution appear to be undermining the profession I love.

Yours faithfully,
HOWARD TOZER,
82 High Kingsdown,
Kingston,
Berkshire,
England,
July 21.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE GAY,
Fleet Street, EC4.

The closure of a grammar school

From the Headmaster of St Marylebone Grammer School

Sir, The recent judgment in the Court of Appeal with regard to this school, reported in your Law Report last Wednesday (July 20), is likely to bring about its gradual extinction unless a way can be found out of the maintained sector. No new boys will be admitted in September or in successive years, until the LEA, with the necessary agreement of the Secretary of State for Education, closes us down in 1981. In the words of Lord Denning: "The fate of the school is sealed. It will gradually fade away until only the shell is left."

But if a strike does occur, and if the Government fails to win, then it may well leave office in almost identical circumstances that befell the Conservative Government in 1974. While that might seem to have a certain ironic justice, it would be a disaster for democracy if neither political party proved capable of governing.

In 1973-74 the Labour Opposition gave their tacit support to the miners. Without the strike would probably not have taken place, and much of the subsequent inflation and unemployment would not have occurred. This time round it is essential that the Conservative Opposition should give the Government its full and unequivocal support in resisting any strike that they need not have bothered because the press had no such inhibitions.

Much the same applies now to the daughter of Mrs Shirley Williams and I apologise to her for drawing further attention to the problem of her education and the solution that has been found. Miss Williams is transferring at this term level from Godolphin and Latymer School, which is going independent, to Camden School for Girls.

Apart from the obvious distinction that it takes girls rather than boys, Camden is very similar to St Marylebone. It is much the same size and has much the same catchment area. Indeed, Mrs Williams has chosen wisely, because in addition its future is secure. It has been enabled, with the necessary agreement of the Secretary of State for Education, to set in motion precisely the kind of plan that we who are devoting ourselves to St Marylebone's future wished to pursue until Mrs Williams placed the final veto upon it. It is re-establishing itself as a small comprehensive school. It makes its first non-selective entry in September. For a few years the sixth form will of course remain much as it was when the school was selected.

Finally, there is what has become the familiar complaint that the over-representation of Scotland and Wales is to remain. That is absurd. It feeds the resentment of English members and puts a necessary measure of constitutional reform at risk simply for the sake of narrow party advantage. The Government will have to adopt a somewhat more elevated attitude on this point if they are to pilot through Parliament Bills that are bound to remain exceedingly contentious.

A number of Marylebone boys have sisters and girl friends at Camden, so perhaps Mrs Williams will be able to learn indirectly, if she cares to, how we fare as we gradually fade away. In the circumstances she may be relieved to learn that we do not intend to do so if you can possibly help it.

Yours sincerely,

BRENDON SEWILL,
Snugger Avon,
Chiswick, Surrey.

Yours sincerely,
Ivor Clemiston,
House of Commons.

From Mr Peter Wallington

Sir, Reading Professor Hayek's extraordinary letter in the last immunity of trade unions (July 21)

I was not surprised to see that it came from an address in Germany. It is scarcely credible that anyone who had lived through the unfolding saga of industrial relations in Britain over the last six years could write in these terms.

There are important reasons, economic as well as social, for preserving trade union immunities. Every country has to live with its history; our history is of a working class industrially organized before it was politically enfranchised, subjected in the infancy of the trade union movement (and since) to an openly hostile legal system and judiciary. No wonder the early priorities of the political representatives of labour included taking industrial relations away from the control of the judges.

It is now time to start thinking what should follow the present situation to earn the trust of the next version of incomes policy which would inevitably prove as unsatisfactory and temporary as all the previous versions, but about how more permanent changes can be made to restore a proper balance to the collective bargaining process.

Yours sincerely,

PETER WALLINGTON,
Trinity Hall, Cambridge.

From Mr Ivor Clemiston MP for Luton East (Labour)

Sir, Mr Gowen's statement in his letter in today's edition (July 25) that "if an employer dismisses a worker he will almost certainly have a strike on his hands or/and have to make payment of redundancy pay or other compensation" cannot be allowed to pass unchallenged.

The analysis of pay in industry in the United Kingdom is in the Department of Employment Gazette in February and November last year shows that in the 3-year period 1971 to 1973 95 per cent of manufacturing plants had no stoppages whatsoever and more than two-thirds of the remainder had only one. Taking the economy as a whole, in 1976 668,000 workers out of a total of nearly 23 million were involved in stoppages—only some 2 per cent of the total.

Far from workers being willing to down tools at any dismissal of a colleague, the great bulk of our dismissals are concentrated in a small

number of industries and then, generally, for quite other reasons.

Mr Gowen's case comes further unstuck if international comparisons of industrial disputes are considered. According to the figures published in the December 1976 Gazette, such varied countries as Finland, the Irish Republic, Australia, the United States, India, Italy and Canada all lost more working days per 1,000 employees in the period 1966 to 1975 than we did. They should all, if Mr Gowen's thesis is correct, have more "proto-union" legislation than he alleges.

Last Friday (July 22), your editor, undismayed by or perhaps unaware of these exchanges, sought not only to perpetuate the previous misconceptions but actually rewrote the script of my television broadcast of last Wednesday! He alleges "Mr Thorpe went on to suggest that the coalition proposal which followed that election had also founded because of Mr Heath".

In practice I said precisely the reverse! What I said was: After the election in 1974 Ted Heath was elected to form a coalition. But Liberals then are now wanted to retain their independence, so we turned down the idea. In fact in 1974, a dozen Liberals in coalition with 300 Conservatives would have been swallowed whole, and even then there wouldn't have been a majority in Parliament. But we did suggest that we would discuss whether we could agree to an economic package to which we would give general support. And this is the same offer which David Steel made to the Prime Minister.

The only difference is that Mr Heath said "No" and Mr Callaghan said "Yes". The suggestion that I was toying with the idea of a coalition and at the eleventh hour was dragged back from the brink by other Liberals is a version dearly loved by Conservative Central Office, apparently believed in by *The Times*, but is wholly at variance with the facts!

For a start the timetable disproves it: On Saturday, March 2, I had a preliminary meeting with Mr Heath at which no commitments were entered into, save that he would report to colleagues; on Sunday morning I met him again and advised them that he had done so for the reasons which I have set out above, in my view coalition was not possible.

I expressed the additional view that I saw little evidence that Mr Heath had altered his industrial strategy which I regarded as a disaster and doubted whether he could unite the nation. I also felt it vital that there should be a real move on electoral reform since the general election had left six million people grossly unrepresented. I was, however, in favour of exploring whether an agreed economic package could be reached on an agreed

basis.

But the real objection to Professor Hayek's letter is not its unreality but its political premises. The assumption is always that unions are specially privileged from the ordinary rule of law, never that the law is impartially weighed in favour of organized capital and against organized labour. Nobody seems to write indignant letters to you, Sir, about the unwarranted immunity of the law of conspiracy given to businessmen by the Companies Act. Trade union immunity may formally appear as a privilege, but it is in substance a balancing of the unequal scales of an individual, capital-oriented common law which is a long time a-dying.

Without the immunities Professor Hayek seeks to abolish it would be unlawful to call a strike; but strikes are part of the price of capitalism. Yours faithfully,

PETER WALLINGTON,
Trinity Hall, Cambridge.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Stand against excessive pay claims

From Mr Brendon Sewill

Sir, The present economic policy will only succeed if excessive pay claims in the public sector are resisted. That means that the Government must be prepared, if necessary, to face—and win—a major strike. If full preparations are made now, if the support of the nation is mobilized, and if wage negotiations are handled with skill, then with luck no major strike will take place.

But if a strike does occur, and if the Government fails to win, then it may well leave office in almost identical circumstances that befell the Conservative Government in 1974. While that might seem to have a certain ironic justice, it would be a disaster for democracy if neither political party proved capable of governing.

In 1973-74 the Labour Opposition gave their tacit support to the miners. Without the strike would probably not have taken place, and much of the subsequent inflation and unemployment would not have occurred. This time round it is essential that the Conservative Opposition should give the Government its full and unequivocal support in resisting any strike that they need not have bothered because the press had no such inhibitions.

A few years ago, at an earlier stage of the battle, a careful decision was made by the committee of parents that was then taking up the cudgels for us. They agreed to avoid mentioning in public the fact that Ashley Bransford, leader of the LEA, with the necessary agreement of the Secretary of State for Education, closed us down in 1981. In the words of Lord Denning: "The fate of the school is sealed. It will gradually fade away until only the shell is left."

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It's all right for the baby, but what about the mother?

Dr Frederick Leboyer tells us that we should welcome our babies into the world with consideration and gentleness, and raises important questions about how we greet the newborn and the manner in which it is handled. But I am left with an uncomfortable feeling that we are forgetting the mother, and that the new concern with how the baby is treated at birth can be yet another way in which men tell women what they should do; another way in which "experts" further sap our self-confidence.

Leboyer describes the mother quite frankly as "a monster" in the second stage of labour. It is her body which creates the contractions which squeeze and "crush" the baby as it is pressed relentlessly down the birth canal, "thrusting into this hell". She, he asserts, "is the enemy". Once the child is born he removes the child from the mother to go through the bathing ritual, which is conducted by ... the doctor.

Why should the mother's spontaneous cries at the climax of delivery

be "curbed" because someone else believes that babies should be delivered into silence? It is far from silent in the uterus, where the maternal blood vessels and digestive system provides a background of steadily chugging activity. Yet women may be actually told "Shush!" if they shout with joy or exclaim with wonder as the baby slips out of the vagina. I believe that the mother's natural reactions are the right ones and that every baby should be welcomed by human voices. It is the first and most important greeting of all. It seems that Leboyer has little

faith in the mother's ability to introduce the world to her child, resting it against her body, and massaging it quite spontaneously with hands which reach out to hold it close and explore every tiny part. In fact, women do know what to do if they are themselves given love and support and a chance to hold their babies immediately. Provide the right environment for the mother, and the baby is greeted and touched and explored in just the right way.

But if the mother's emotional needs are neglected, if she feels she is merely the container from which the

baby is removed, in spite of and not because of herself, she is unable to "give" to her baby. If she finds herself in a loveless atmosphere, everything that is done to the baby, massage, bathing, music or whatever, is no more than ritual magic which fails to nourish the relationship between the mother and child that is just coming into being, and which is the only thing that really matters in the all-important "first hour" after delivery".

It is women who bear the babies. Perhaps it is time for women to say exactly what they would like in labour

and at birth. No cult should get in the way of a mother's first-hand experience of the birth she has just pushed out into the world.

This can apply as much to the cult of the ritual bath as to the technological cult of hospital birth in what all too often looks like a well-equipped torture theatre. There is nothing to compare with giving birth without haste or cheer-leading among friends in an atmosphere of peace where the mother is encouraged, quite simply, to do whatever she feels like doing.

Sheila Kitzinger

The joy of rhyme without reason

The recent publication of Iona and Peter Opie's *Lore and Language of Schoolchildren* in paperback (Paladin £2.50) will give a new generation of adults one of those welcome opportunities for comparative reminiscence. Did you really say:

*Red, white and blue
The Queen's got the flu
The King's got the tummy ache*

*And don't know what to do
down your street in Coronation Year?
Or perhaps you jeered at the thinnest girl in the class
by saying:*

Skinny-malinky long legs

Big banana feet

Went to the pictures

And fell through the seat

And even if you remember no such rhymes, or any parallels to the hundreds of others which are assembled in the book (was anyone so depraved?) there will remain the less committed pleasure of browsing through what amounts to an anthology of simple, but often unexpectedly pointed, verbal pranks.

Understandably, Mr and Mrs Opie cannot be very specific about the origins of their rhymes and adages. "The work of professional humorists and song-writers" would certainly seem to be a starting-point for many of them, and the corruption or satirization of nursery rhymes a source for others, but this still leaves much that may

conjecturally be ascribed to the spontaneous wit of dozens of playground joiners. And "spontaneous" may well be important here for it would seem that the conscious creation of lasting, successful rhymes is not as easy as it looks. The Opies quote one couplet at whose composition they were present: "It's a duck, it's a duck/Stuck in the muck, stuck in the muck", but the vital spark was missing and within a week the child creators had forgotten it — and, on present evidence, the road to authentic imitation looks to be an even harder one for adult creators.

In a recent slim volume called *Stickleback, Stickleback, and Other Minnow Rhymes* (Kestrel £1.30), Mrs Nancy Chambers attempts some manufactured traditional verse. Now Mrs Chambers is the publisher of an interesting book-list on *Poetry Books for Children* (compiled by Alan Tucker, from The Thimble Press, Stroud, 50p) and may therefore be expected to know a hawk from a hand-saw—but the succinctness, and bite of "the tradition" none the less elude her. Any of us, I suppose, might begin a pseudo-trad verse with lines like:

*Ellen, Ellen, watermelon
Brian, Brian, dandelion
(eschewing the lure of satire),
but sooner or later the catalogue must be rounded off and that is where the genius has to come in.*

*Jane and Mary, Mark and James
all can play games with their
names*

is, alas, the lamest of conclusions both in what it says and in the way it says it.

Only Mrs Chambers's title-poem: "Stickleback, stickleback, back/swim away from the noise/The pond is surrounded/by fishnets and boys" seems to catch something of the tilt of playground verse, and the gaucherie of the rest of the

verse should perhaps charitably be forgiven as a first endeavour. This, though, is not an excuse that will help to subdue tremors of disappointment over a new book by Michael Rosen, whose earlier collection of children's verse, *Mind Your Own Business* (Deutsch, hardback; Aranda Lions, paper), was one of the best books of 1974.

For all the three-year gap, the new book, *Wouldn't You Like to Know* (Deutsch £2.50),

has the mark of being too speedy a successor to the first one. The repetition of poems from that volume, with "responses", serves to show the difference in pressure between the two, and several attempts to work the same formula: a lengthy comedy about mail-order, some rather laboured pieces about tower-blocks and fishing for rainbow-fish, strew effort, where before so much had been natural. Even so, Mr Rosen has too good an ear and too quick a wit not to be worth comparing with the best of colloquial tradition. ("Ask no questions, tell no lies/Ever see mincemeat in mince pies?"), and one or two of his longer poems, like the return of dog Reuben Razzo, or "my brother", stirring up trouble about fluff, are as well-paced and as good to read aloud as ever. Like *Mind Your Own Business*, the new book is adorned with pen sketches by Quentin Blake at his very best.

Within this compass Mrs Moss varies her selection nicely, as between the unfamiliar and the known, but reactions to the 30 poems she has included are bound to be influenced by the coloured scene-painting that surrounds them. This is by the Japanese artist, Sotomi Ichikawa, and can best be described as Kate Greenaway set of *Bouet de Manvel* (although the page-opening with a truncated Blake

poem on it also has what looks like an "unfortunate" pictorial reference back to Palgrave). As an exercise in charm, the book has a certain unity and, as its basis in a liaison spread for Mrs Ewing's "Bun of the Litter"—it rises above the ordinary, but it may not please those who fear for children too readily equating poetry with what Alan Tucker calls "whimsy and fancy".

For such bardic spirits a far less imposing volume has much to offer: *Rhyme Time*, a paperback edited by Barbara Innes (Beaver, 60p). Mrs Innes is one of our best anthologists of poetry for young children and she has here got together an impressive gathering of varied and often little-known verse. Kate Greenaway and Eleanor Farjeon do indeed stir across the scene, but so does Michael Rosen—and one senses that Mrs Innes is always measuring the likely effect of her carefully organised collection against the "pulling power" of "Skinny-malinky long legs", rather than the more effete rhythms of "The year's at the spring" or the awkward inversions of "I like children skip". The rope is easily gripping". In any case, with more than 200 poems to choose from, if you don't like the look of one you can always "pass a little further down the buss".

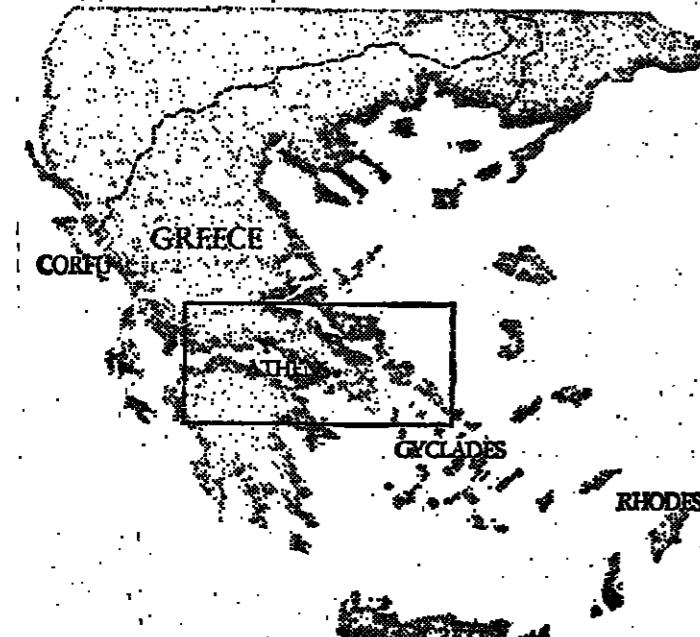
Brian Allerton

YOU LIVED A LONG TIME.
TIME ALONE,
NOW YOU STAND AWHILE,
A MONUMENT
TO YOUR PAST,
UNTIL YOU ARE READY
TO FALL AND BECOME FOOD
FOR YOUR FUTURE.



This monument to our city-state and its deities may survive the very seasons themselves.

Pericles. The Greatest Statesman of Ancient Athens 447 B.C.



For ten months of the year, and every year, countless thousands of people, from all corners of the modern world, set out on a pilgrimage to witness perhaps the most awe-inspiring monument in all the ancient world.

A stunning architectural achievement, he radiantly beautiful Parthenon on the Acropolis, was built wholly of marble and conceals structural refinements that continue to baffle the world. An unsymmetrical marvel, hat to us, mere humans, appears symmetrical.

The Acropolis dominates a modern Athens that is almost unique as a twentieth-century holiday experience. For here the visitor has very nearly the whole year from which to choose.

From February, time of sales and carnivals past the heat of July, and on through November, Athens' magnetism never fades.

And Athens' off-season is a real discovery. A perfect climate. Beaches and the Aegean free from the maddening crowd. A multitude of winter festivals, and the nightly pleasures of the Opera and the Theatre.

A chance to meet the Greek at his most relaxed. And, most of all, a peace that can be experienced, but never described.

The unhurried traveller can truly explore, wherever his curiosity takes him.

The treasured moment to the mighty god of the sea, Poseidon's temple at Cape Sounion, marks the corner of the world that the sun chose for its most dramatic sunset.

Or the Saronic Isles, Aegina, Poros, Hydra and Spetsae, each a perfect island, paradise of soft sand and miniature villages.

Or Evia, a massive peninsula-like island created, it would seem, solely for the sun-worshipper. Mile after mile of golden beaches, including that oasis in a supersonic world, the deserted cove.

Or further afield, the breathtaking splendour of Delphi, the ghostly quiet of Olympia, and even Marathon itself, a modest twenty-six miles and a few hundred yards away (as the athlete runs).

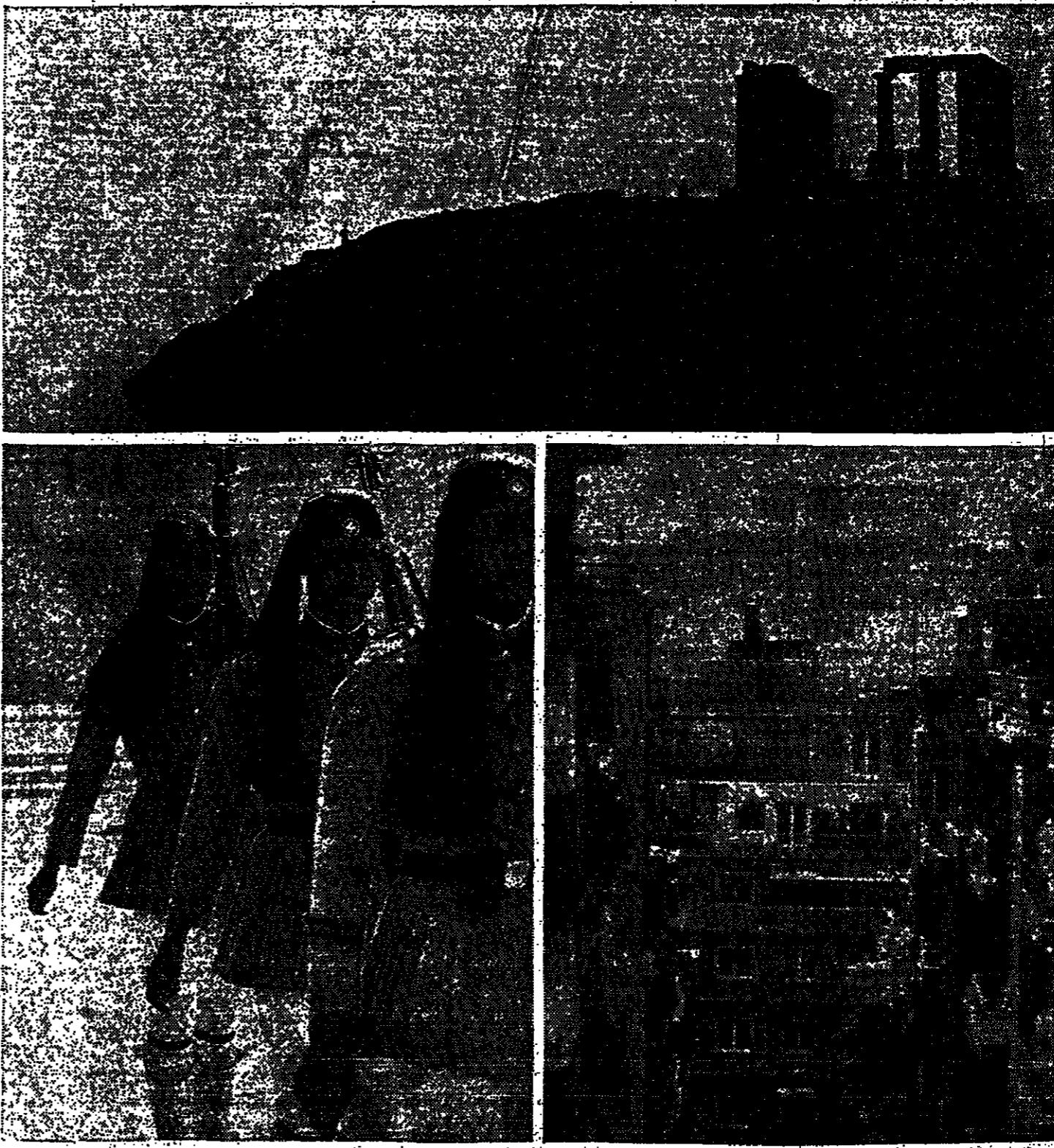
Athens, and in fact the whole of the Grecian World, has a welcome that stretches from the first day of spring to the last day of winter.

Just ask your travel agent or write to us and we'll send you all the information you need on the massive choice of high-season and off-season holidays and how to fly there on our national airline, Olympic Airways. Write to: The National Tourist Organisation of Greece, 195/197 Regent Street, London W1. Our number is 01-734 5997/8/9.

Who can say which month you will choose to begin your Grecian adventure? But one thing we are sure of. No month in Athens would be complete without a journey to the majestic monument that once filled Pericles' dreams.

Greece and the Hellenic Isles.

They're closer than you think.



Just inside

OME NEWS

White Paper rejects separate tax powers for assemblies and suggests new formula on financing

It would not be practicable to incorporate such a formula in statute because it would lead at best to cumbersome provisions of doubtful validity and effectiveness. Therefore, the Government intends to propose an approach on the lines of a percentage basis to the devolved administrations as soon as they are elected.

The Government see no reason why "determining the level of expenditure in Scotland and Wales" should not be "left to detailed scrutiny by the relevant departments of individual devolved spending."

Nevertheless, in order to minimize any risks, studies are being carried out on the collection of objective information on needs and standards of public services. The Government intend to explore with the devolved administrations the scope for an independent advisory body and for a formula under which devolved expenditure would be settled for a period of, say, four years ahead as a percentage of comparable expenditure in the country as a whole.

Explaining the rejection of the promising approach would relate the total of devolved public spending in Scotland and Wales to comparable expenditure elsewhere in the country on the basis of relative needs. Then it would be expressed as a percentage of comparable expenditure in the country as a whole.

A percentage would be agreed over a given period, which it would determine afresh on the same basis, the Scottish and Welsh assemblies.

At the period might be four years, corresponding to the life of the devolved assemblies. During that period, it would normally be open to the devolved administration to use an increase, or to the Government to propose a reduction in the percentage, but only in the event of considerable expansion outside Scotland and Wales would any reductions lead to corresponding increases or reductions in total expenditure.

Bristol Helicopters chief was advised to 'attack' airline pilots' union

Alan Bristow, head of Bristow Helicopters, was advised by his operations director to mount an all-out attack on British Airline Pilots' Union (Balpa), including use of political pressure if necessary.

It was in an internal memorandum written on March 31, one month before strike of more than fifty pilot charter pilots at the new Aberdeen base, which ended North Sea oil production.

The memorandum was read by Mark Young, general secretary of Balpa, at the Employment Appeals Tribunal in London. It was written by Alastair Gordon, operations director at Bristow. The dispute was over the dismissal of Captain Peter Roy, a helicopter pilot, for refusing a posting to Malaysia. He alleges that he was victimised because of his membership of the union.

An on murder charge may have rare disease

Another accused of murdering seven-month-old son was certain suffering from a congenital disease, mental deterioration, a doctor said yesterday.

Edward Bird, a consultant of neurology at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, and a specialist in the disease, told the jury at Crown Court that he had the father on Monday as 90 per cent certain that he had the disease.

Mr Peacock, 3, and his wife, Christine, 22, of Centre Road, Cambridge, are of mothering their son on December 3. They are accused of ill-treating him. The court was told that the family over a number of hours. Mr Peacock was

Funerals hit as union debates new pay claim

About three hundred funerals were cancelled yesterday when funeral workers met to consider pressing a pay claim which threatened a national strike.

London-based members of the National Union of Funeral Service Operatives unanimously voted for raising average pay from £51 to £70 a week, with an extra 18 per cent in fringe benefits.

Earlier, London union members had rejected an offer of £51 a week under stage two of the pay policy from the London Association of Funeral Directors.

The union is to seek a meeting with the employers after August 1. If the claim is refused 21 days notice of a work-to-rule will be given, followed by a strike ballot.

ing groups are helping 9,000 disabled people

The joy of making friends with a horse

John Charles, 10, of New Town, Teesside, and his mother, Mrs Strang, riding for the Disabled at the afternoon, Princess Anne, an important step for the rapid progress of the happiness and mutual movements association for the disabled.

The movement began only about 20 years ago with enthusiasts such as Dr Nathan Strang and his wife being inspired by the story of Liz Hartell of Denmark, who won a silver medal for dressage in the 1952 Olympics in spite of being severely disabled by poliomyelitis. Hitherto, most of the groups have been located in country districts, but Dr Strang's Washington centre will be able to give pleasure and help to about 400 people from the north-east industrial area, many of them children, every week.

Concurred to the practice in some European countries, the first aim of the Riding for the Disabled Association is to provide pleasure and enjoyment for the disabled and handicapped, with therapeutic effects regarded as a welcome spin-off.

When they happen—as they often do, sometimes to the astonishment of doctors, parents, instructors and riders themselves.

Mr Donald Shaw, honorary publicity officer for the association, said that even the effect of sitting on a horse, looking down at other people instead of sitting in a wheelchair, always looking up, had been found to have remarkable psychological effects. In some cases children suffering from autism had been known to begin communicating for the first time because of the special relationship between horse and rider.

Although yesterday's event was regarded by all concerned as a watershed and a stamp of special help from the association's patron, Mr Shaw pointed out that it was also only a beginning. He estimates that 100,000 disabled and handicapped people in the British Isles could be helped by riding. "So we are really only 10 per cent of the way," he said.

Review of overseas representation 2: Planning for the next 15 years

Need for flexibility in case the unforeseen happens

By Peter Hennessy

Previous attempts to chart the future of British policy overseas and the type of representation to go with it have been swiftly overtaken by events. The "think tank" team were determined that the wide range of options contained in their report should be sufficient to encompass the more predictable shifts in the country's relations with the rest of the world over the next 15 years.

To the extent that Scotland and Wales receive above-average shares of public expenditure generally, they will derive particular benefit from these, as from other, United Kingdom revenues, but "there can be no question of these directly available to the devolved administrations as soon as they are elected.

The Government see no reason why "determining the level of expenditure in Scotland and Wales" according to relative needs should be cause of especial dispute", the White Paper says.

Nevertheless, in order to minimize any risks, studies are being carried out on the collection of objective information on needs and standards of public services.

The Government intend to explore with the devolved administrations the scope for an independent advisory body and for a formula under which devolved expenditure would be settled for a period of, say, four years ahead as a percentage of comparable expenditure in the United Kingdom as a whole.

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A percentage would be agreed over a given period, which it would determine afresh on the same basis, the Scottish and Welsh assemblies.

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The White Paper states: "The Government's conclusion is that, on balance, and taking into account the general practicability and likely public acceptability of each tax method examined, the disadvantages outweigh the advantages."

They accordingly have no proposals for devolving specific tax powers as a means of supplementing the block fund.

However, if the devolved administrations wish to make available a limited supplement to the tax power and are ready to meet its administrative costs, the Government would certainly be willing to consider sympathetically any such proposals, other than in relation to offshore oil.

On tax related to offshore oil the White Paper states that the Government has repeatedly rejected Services (Command 6890, Stationery Office, 50p).

Leading article, page 17

Woman loses plea against shop's 'skirts only' rule

A woman lecturer, who yesterday lost her fight to wear trousers to work, has a copy of the Sex Discrimination Act, 1975, in the street outside the Employment Appeal Tribunal prae-

trial Miss Marianne Schmidt, aged 25, of Brudenell Mount, Leeds, had contended before the tribunal that her former employers, Austicks Bookshops, of Leeds, had infringed the Sex Discrimination Act by insisting that she should wear a skirt instead of trousers under a overall provided for female staff. The tribunal rejected her argument.

Mr Justice Phillips, presid-

ing, said: "Employers were entitled to a large measure of discretion in controlling the image of their shops, including the appearance of staff, especially when their duties brought them into contact with the public.

Miss Schmidt maintained that trousers were more comfortable and better suited to her job.

Mr Justice Phillips pointed out that there could not have been a comparable equivalent restriction barring men from wearing trousers. But the men were not allowed to wear T-shirts and jeans.

affairs is not an option in the first stages of this approach were the management of overseas economic affairs and export services. The two sections covering those areas are the largest in the 20-chapter report.

The bulk of export promotion is carried out by the Government, not for its own purposes, but on behalf of businesses. The zero budget approach required the team to inquire first whether the Government should be doing it at all, or whether companies should be left to make their own collective arrangements.

Having decided that it was legitimate for central government, they deauved next to discover if it was being done as well as possible.

About half the staff at the Department of Trade in London and one-half of Foreign Office members overseas are engaged in export and commercial work.

The team examined their efforts and complemented their visits and interviews by commissioning a study of the use made of Foreign Office reports in export promotion from Mr Robert Worcester, of Market Opinion Research International.

The concept of a new

"super ministry" of external services engaged the BBC.

Among other departments examined in particular detail were the Ministry of Overseas Development and the Export Credit Guarantee Department.

The external aspects of other institutions were also scrutinized, including the Ministry of Defence, the Central Office of Information, the Property Services Agency, the Treasury and the Bank of England.

The total of public expenditure within their remit

amounted to £325m gross and £290m net of passport, consular and British Council earnings at 1975-76 prices. That excludes spending on defence overseas aid and the British contribution to the budget of the EEC.

The report is divided into two sections: the main tasks of overseas representation and the secondary functions.

It is probably the second section that will capture the imagination when the Review of Overseas Representation is published next week covering as it does, subjects of eternal appeal to the popular mind such as the style and costs of entertainment enjoyed by diplomats abroad and the kind of accommodation in which embassy life takes place.

The cognoscenti of Crown servants should ever repeat the monumental gaffe of the Foreign Office over German reparations after the Second World War. According to Mr Geoffrey Monckton, in his highly readable recent work, *The Diplomats*, the gentleman in Gilbert Scott's palazzo advised the Attlee Government to decline the offer of the Volkswagen factory as reparations on the ground that its car (the world-beating "Beetle") had no commercial future.

Concluded.

Deputy head attacks truant teachers 'who plan illness'

Truancy among teachers was the cause of declining morale within schools and a financial drain on the state, Mr Ian Mitchell, Lambeth's official spokesman for the Professional Association of Teachers, told a provincial tour of the Zulus' tribal show, *Umbabala*.

A provincial tour of the Zulus' tribal show, *Umbabala*, has been cancelled.

Equity members and staff have provided beds for the 42 Zulus and the union hopes to raise £4,000 for the two weeks' salaries the company is owed.

The Tel Aviv agency organizing the tour has run out of money.

"Some are even taking even-

"With a fast yes (and sometimes no) from ECGD, we're beating the competition in 60 markets"

"We find that the best way into a new market is through a distributor—but it must be the right distributor. So it's important we check their credit out first and that's where ECGD can help. If ECGD say no, that's good enough for us."

"With the competitive situation that we have we need a really fast 'yes' or 'no'. It takes longer in some markets but what ECGD says counts with us."

Brian Iles is Sales and Marketing Director at the Liner Concrete Machinery Co. Ltd., Gateshead. Clive Wakley is Export Sales Manager.

Liner Concrete have been manufacturing contractors plant and site-handling equipment since 1916. Construction of another factory to handle new product expansion is now almost complete.

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To make an appointment or for information contact the Information Officer, Export Credits Guarantee Department—quoting reference TL
—at Glasgow, Belfast, Leeds, Manchester, Birmingham, Cambridge, Bristol, London West End, Croydon or Tottenham offices; or Juan Swales, Information Section, ECGD, Aldermaston House, London EC2P 2EL (Tel: 01-606 6699, Ext. 258).

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VERSEAS

Warning from Kenya personal level in big power rivalry in the Horn of Africa

Mr. Ngala Mwanga, Foreign Minister, who was in Nairobi July 26.—Heavy fighting continued in southern Ethiopia today and the insurgents, who are supported by African states, claimed they were close to total victory. Kenya's chief of staff, General Speight, issued a warning that the two warring sides of Africa were forced into confrontation and political maneuvering between the big powers. Political intrigues and dis-

order now characterize the new general atmosphere in the region, Dr. Muriuki Waiyaki, Foreign Minister of Kenya, told a press luncheon here.

He said: "I am sure Dr. Owen is correct in his assessment of a situation which would expand if we participated in it as such areas of western Africa and the whole world.

It denied news agency reports that the president had been seriously hurt or that Vice-President Abu Bakar All was killed in the same accident last week but was now back at work in his office.

"There was an accident last Wednesday in the central region of the country and the President was hurt but only slightly," an official said.

Washington: The United States has agreed in principle to provide arms to Somalia.

Mr. Hoddings Carter, spokesman for the State Department, said the United States would work with other countries to produce defensive weapons for the country, which is occupied by a "large number" of Somali forces in its transport aircraft, including those carrying women and children, the radio said.

Another victory report could serve as a reminder independently, with the United Nations, comprising a third World's horn of Africa, closed to all foreigners.

South African news agency reported that Col. Feleke Gedde-Gheorgis, and Mr. Negeen Minister, yesterday released all diplomatic and the Organization of African Unity, that brazen acts of Somali aggression began early on Friday with military operations in the Ogaden Desert.

Col. Feleke told the OAU in a telegram that the fighting

Black Poles free workers jailed for food price protests

Varsaw, July 26.—Polish papers today announced the release of five workers imprisoned since June, 1976, after protests against price rises, five members and four supporters of a workers' defense committee set up after the protests.

Five committee members, released last Saturday, held a press conference at which one member, Mr. Jacek Kuron, said he thought the authorities had been surprised by the extent of the popular movement in support of them. The decision to release the imprisoned workers, and the limited members and supporters whose cases had still been under examination, was an act of political realism, Kuron said.

Journalists in Moscow get eviction warning

Moscow, July 26.—Soviet authorities have warned correspondents of three Western organizations that they face eviction unless they pay recently imposed rent increases, some as much as 120 per cent.

The notices issued by the diplomatic Corps Service, marking the first evictions in a few months involving most of Moscow's foreign community.

The service bureau controls state monopoly over office apartment space available to foreign diplomats, business and journalists. There is an open housing market. Most signers have received an opportunity to discuss the new agreements, while continuing to pay rent at the old.

Sotti hope of oil wealth poses threat to Antarctic harmony

Research ships had already discovered sediments frequently associated with oil and gas elsewhere.

Holes drilled in shallow water had also released simpler hydrocarbon gases, ethane and methane, indicating the likely presence of oil. Subsequent estimates have conservatively suggested recoverable reserves of 15,000 million barrels of oil and three trillion cubic metres of gas.

Dr. Laws believed that the mineral potential of Antarctica, long recognized, could rapidly become economically attractive in the increased search for scarce resources. He drew a parallel with exploration and extraction in other regions previously considered too hostile.

The Alaskan field was one example. In Arctic Canada there was exploratory drilling in water depths to 700 metres despite the presence of drifting icebergs, and oil companies had taken options in areas with water depths of 1,000 metres in the Labrador current, he said.

Other resources for exploitation in the region included the krill that could perhaps double the world's fish catch, iron ore and even coal on land and icebergs that could be towed thousands of miles away to supply fresh water.

US to begin S Korea withdrawal next year

Seoul, July 26.—The United States said today that it would begin withdrawing ground troops from South Korea next year but remained committed to the defence of the country.

Mr. Harold Brown, the Defence Secretary, told a press conference that the withdrawal would result in a more stable situation in North-East Asia and South Korea would continue to be protected by the American nuclear umbrella.

Agreement on the withdrawal of 33,000 men was reached during two days of talks here between Mr. Brown and South Korean officials.

They decided the withdrawal would be phased over four to five years, starting with the removal of 6,000 men.

The United States said that in return it would help South Korea build up its own defences. Mr. Suh Kyong-Chul, the South Korean Defence Minister, told the same press conference that what he called these "compensatory measures were 'constructive' and substantive".

While ground forces will be withdrawn, the Americans would remain in the area, a joint communiqué said.

A senior American official said the United States had agreed that two American brigades should remain until the end of the withdrawal.

The United States would also sell South Korea the advanced F-16 jet fighter. —Reuters.

U.S. scientists' report reflects concern over use of natural fuels

Coal and oil are producing warmer climate

From David Cope

Washington, July 26.

The continued use of natural fuels such as coal and oil is likely to produce a considerably warmer climate with adverse, perhaps even catastrophic effects on the environment, according to American scientists.

Coastal and low-lying cities such as London and New York could be flooded out and there might be dramatic shifts in agriculture and fishing patterns.

This is the main finding of a two-and-a-half year research programme carried out by more than 20 of America's leading experts in geophysics and energy questions for the National Academy of Sciences. Their report, published here this week suggests that average global air temperatures may rise by 6°C (11°F) in the next 200 years if carbon dioxide con-

tinues to pour into the atmosphere at increasing rates.

Carbon dioxide, which is produced when fossil fuels such as coal and gas are burnt to produce energy, acts like the glass of a greenhouse to trap the sun's heat. According to the report, the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere has increased by 13 per cent since the start of the Industrial Revolution.

Even if this bleak prediction proved over-optimistic, a 5 per cent increase in the average temperature of the top 3,000ft of ocean water would raise the sea level by about 3ft because of the expansion of water volume. A warming of the ocean waters would also result in the release of more carbon dioxide into the atmosphere and a shift towards the poles in the marine population.

At the North and South Poles the air might be between 18 and 24 degrees warmer.

This would exceed by far the temperature fluctuations of the past several thousand years and would very likely, along the way, have a significant impact on global precipitation, the report says.

A substantial increase in annual snowfall in Antarctica and Greenland would thicken the ice caps and perhaps cause surges or slides of ice masses into the sea. "If these surges resulted in the destruction of the west Antarctic ice cap, the

ice would be shifted to poorer soils in the north; for example,

Given sufficient time and a sufficient degree of international cooperation, society could probably adjust itself to such changes, the report concludes. But over shorter times, the effects might be adverse, even catastrophic."

The findings of the scientists will doubtless be seized upon by those who advocate a move away from fossil fuels to more sophisticated nuclear and solar energy resources. The scientists maintain that this is not the purpose of their findings.

Rather, they say, they want to stimulate a reassessment of global energy policy as soon as possible. Their report calls for a worldwide research effort, costing between \$20m and \$100m (£12m-£55m) a year, and the establishment of a national scientific council to coordinate studies on the carbon dioxide cycle, climate, pollution, energy demand and food production.

Albanian 'splitism' condemned in Peking

Peking, July 26.—Chinese newspapers today published a thinly veiled attack on Albania amid increasing evidence of a serious rift between Peking and its former ideological ally.

The newspapers gave prominence to a statement by a Greek Marxist-Leninist contesting Albanian claims that China was deflecting the revolutionary movement from its true path. Reference was made to "revisionism, dogmatism, splitism and opportunism".

In his statement, Mr. Petros Stagios, of the Greek Revolutionary Communist Movement, defended Mao Tse-tung's concept of the three worlds—superpowers, developed countries and developing countries. Earlier this month, the Albanian newspaper *Zeri i Popullit* attacked the three worlds theory as anti-Leninist.

Suggesting that Albania may be plotting into Moscow's hands, Mr. Stagios spoke of "opportunism which may be leftist in words" and serves the policies and cunning plots of Soviet social-imperialism.

The Albanian Embassy today categorically denied reports from Belgrade that the Foreign Office arrived here for talks saying Britain was seeking "new alternatives" in solving the dispute with Guatemala over the colony of Belize.

"We hope to reduce the tension between the two nations," he said. —UPI.

Typhoon cuts swathe through Taiwan port

Taipei, July 26.—The most powerful typhoon in Taiwan's recorded history has killed dozens of people, injured thousands more and put many of the island's 45,000 factories out of production, officials said today.

Hundreds of soldiers were sent to search for victims in the rubble of destroyed buildings and to help survivors.

Wind speeds of up to 120mph hit the port city of Kaohsiung early on Monday and in 90 minutes cut a wide path of destruction across one quarter of the island.

The state-operated Taiwan Power Company said that 155 steel towers supporting high tension power lines were

killed, six missing and 3,200 injured in Kaohsiung alone and at least 5,000 left homeless.

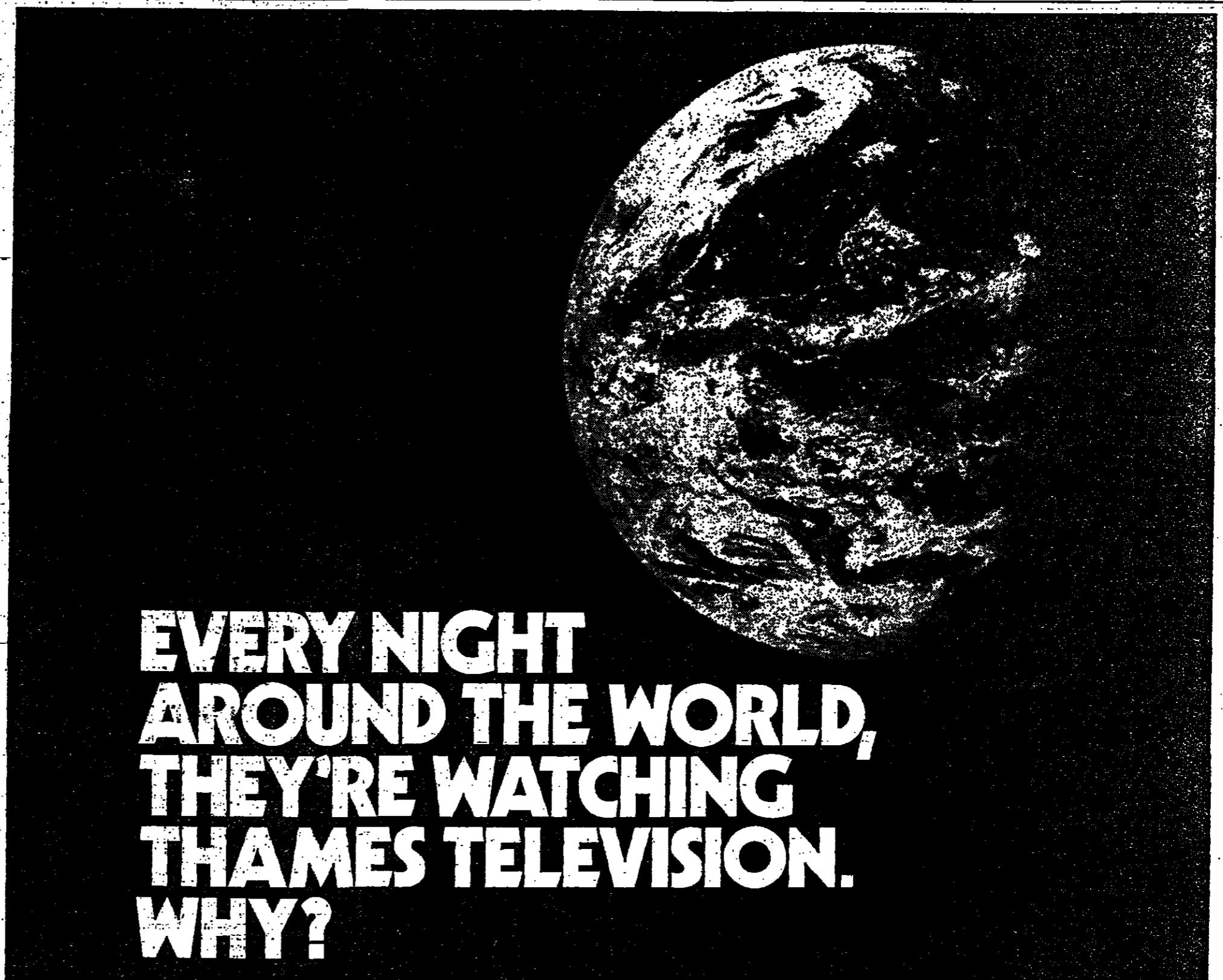
A company spokesman said it could take weeks to restore all power.

Officials said it was impossible to estimate the total damage, but it was so extensive that it would almost certainly affect the island's economic growth rate. —UPI.

Britain 'seeking alternatives' over Belize

Guatemala City, July 26.—Mr. Rowlands, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, arrived here for talks saying Britain was seeking "new alternatives" in solving the dispute with Guatemala over the colony of Belize.

A denial was also issued by the Chinese Foreign Ministry. —UPI & Agence France-Presse.



EVERY NIGHT AROUND THE WORLD, THEY'RE WATCHING THAMES TELEVISION. WHY?

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Secondly, we offer a service, not just a sale. When we sold the format of our award-winning children's series *Rainbow* to Iran, for example, we had producer Pam Lonsdale fly out to act as production advisor.

Thirdly, we think our market is bigger than the TV entertainment stations of the world. Universities

are among our most regular international customers; *The World at War*, now seen in 64 countries, was acquired by the US Army and Navy for their education divisions; and our factual documentary on the French DC10 disaster found buyers among the top world airlines.

Those are three reasons. But the underlying fact is the one that should lie behind all successful exporting: we make products of unrivalled quality that the world wants to buy.



Thames Television International:
British programmes for the world

OVERSEAS

Libya and Egypt replace their battles in the desert with a strident propaganda war

From Robert Fisk
Cairo, July 26

The shooting along the Egyptian-Libyan border may have ended but the propaganda war between the two countries continues today with a momentum all its own.

The Cairo press spent much of its time reporting the claims that Colonel Gaddafi is insane while the Libyans contented themselves with an allegation that Egyptian troops captured during last week's desert battle were discovered to have been armed with Israeli weapons.

Along the frontier, there were no reports of shooting from either side this afternoon, but officials of the Palestine Liberation Organization in Cairo—who arranged the present truce—made it clear that they were far from happy with the lack of any formal ceasefire agreement.

An Egyptian military spokesman reported at midday that the border areas remained quiet but he would not give any details of the tentative truce still holding.

He denied a report that Egypt has demanded the closure of Soviet-equipped and Soviet-managed oil stations in the Libyan desert although it is clear that the Egyptians, in their desire to point up Russian military involvement in Libya, regard these installations as potential targets.

The semi-official Cairo daily—Al Ahram—quoted with some relish this morning a dispatch in *The New York Times* which said that the Egyptian Air Force had bombed one of

the radar stations on Friday, killing three Soviet technicians.

On the other hand, it now seems clear that the Soviet advisers to the Libyan Army played virtually no role in last week's fighting. Western military diplomats in Cairo believe that if the Russians had been manning Libya's anti-air defences, they would have shot down far more than the two aircraft which Egypt admits losing.

Space was also given in Al Ahram to an officially inspired article about the continuing efforts of President Boumediene of Algeria and Mr Yusuf Arsat, the PLO leader. President Sadat was quoted as saying: "We feel Libya has no more time left. An explosion now could threaten Arab unity against the first enemy, Israel."

The most intriguing claim of the day came in the official Libyan newspaper *Al Jihad* ("the holy war"). "Our forces seized Zionist arms from Egyptian prisoners of war," it said, "and these arms were used against Libya by Anvar Sadat, a tool of the CIA Intelligence Agency."

In fact, it is not impossible that some Egyptian soldiers were carrying Israeli-made weapons since the Egyptian Army captured a large number of guns when it overran Israeli positions on the Bar Lev Line beside the Suez Canal at the beginning of the last Middle East war in 1973.

The Egyptians are still tak-

ing the line that the Libyan people are blameless and acting only on the misguided principles of Colonel Gaddafi, a sentiment which maintains the ritual of Arab unity.

Cairo, July 26.—President Sadat said tonight that Egypt's armed conflict with Libya "is over after the lesson we gave to Colonel Gaddafi. He said on television that his country's military action was punitive and not intended for territorial gain.

"We do not have any territorial dispute with Libya, nor do we want Libyan financial aid. Proof of this is that when our troops accomplished their mission, we pulled them back to Moscow: The Soviet Union's first reaction to the clashes came today with condemnation of Egypt in *Pravda*.

The Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee condemned Egypt's "fratricidal actions" against Libya and said the Russians "ask Egypt immediately to end the armed acts on the Egyptian-Libyan frontier, so that the villages will get official assistance and support."

Our Washington Correspondent writes: The American State Department today condemned the Israeli Government's decision. As soon as the news reached Washington Mr Alfred Atherton, Assistant Secretary of State for Middle East affairs, contacted the Israeli Ambassador to express his regret at the move.

Mr Cyrus Vance, the Secretary of State, who had already arranged a meeting with the ambassador this afternoon to discuss preparations for his forthcoming visit to the Middle East, was expected to add his personal disapproval.

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The Egyptians are still tak-

Permanent status for West Bank settlements

From Moshe Brilliant
Tel Aviv, July 26

The controversial settlement of Elion Moreh in the occupied West Bank of Jordan which was established by militant Gush Emunim nationalists in defiance of the former Government received official recognition today from the new Likud Government and the World Zionist Organisation.

A joint committee representing the two bodies also granted permanent status to Otna, near Ramallah, which had been established by the former government only as a "work camp" and in March Edumim between Jericho and Jerusalem, which was officially sponsored by the previous administration as an industrial suburb of Jerusalem.

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SPORT

Athletics

Kearns makes a late decision and sets British track record

From Cliff Temple
Athletics Correspondent

Stockholm, July 26

Michael Kearns, having dutifully collected his match points for Britain on Monday night, threw caution to the wind and, in her place in the 200 metres last night, was taken by Donna Hartley, and not a British runner, to a British record.

Mrs Hartley (23.35sec) had too much strength for the Swede Linda Haglund.

In the longer events, the still dampening rain continued to delay the sprinters. David Warren laid the ghost of his last AAA championship 800 metres at the home straight by using the long home straight tactical position and won from the Pole, Marian Gescik, in a personal best time of 1min 47.37sec.

As Walker followed the pace-setter, Lloyd Johnson, through 400 metres in 56.7sec and 1min 55.3sec, Kearns was right behind him and by the bell there was just the two of them. Walker and Kearns left together. Only in the final 300 metres did Kearns pull away.

Walker opened up a gap. The American, just 1.1sec behind, was not said. Walker, conclusive to record breaking. He was spiced early in the race but his time was still the fastest in this world this year. Kearns had run an 11.1sec 100m up when he missed the athletes' bus and had to walk more than a mile to the stadium) said afterwards: "After winning the match last night, I was ill, and I thought I'd wait until this morning to decide whether to run in the sprint events. I knew I was going to try to pass 800 metres in around 1min 55sec and as my best 800 metres time until this year was only 1min 54sec that worried me a little."

In fact, Kearns looked very strong over the final 300 metres and his two constancies in 1min 55.3sec and 1min 47.37sec put him in the selection race to think twice about whether to compete in Stockholm.

Steven Overt, who set the old UK record of 3min 37.36sec earlier this year, is such an automatic choice for the European Cup final next month after all. I think they will be able to think twice about whether to compete in Stockholm and Poland in Stockholm on Monday night, especially to be fit again in time for next month's European Cup final.

Walker, Miss Hartley and Kearns (23.35sec) were in more cheerful spirits than the previous evening when she had to be carried off the track after the relay.

"We had been hanging around

for a long time, waiting for the race to start, and I was getting quite chatty," said Miss Hartley. "I think that probably caused the injury, which is a slight strain to a groin muscle. I think I could get a fast performance by racing Walker."

Kearns' record in one of several non-match events made us forget for a few minutes the main purpose of the meeting, the international between Britain, Sweden and Poland.

Although Sonia Lammam's injury during the relay on Monday night, a strained groin muscle, should not stop her from competing in the European Cup final and had responded yesterday to treatment, her place in the 200 metres last night was taken by Donna Hartley, and not a British runner.

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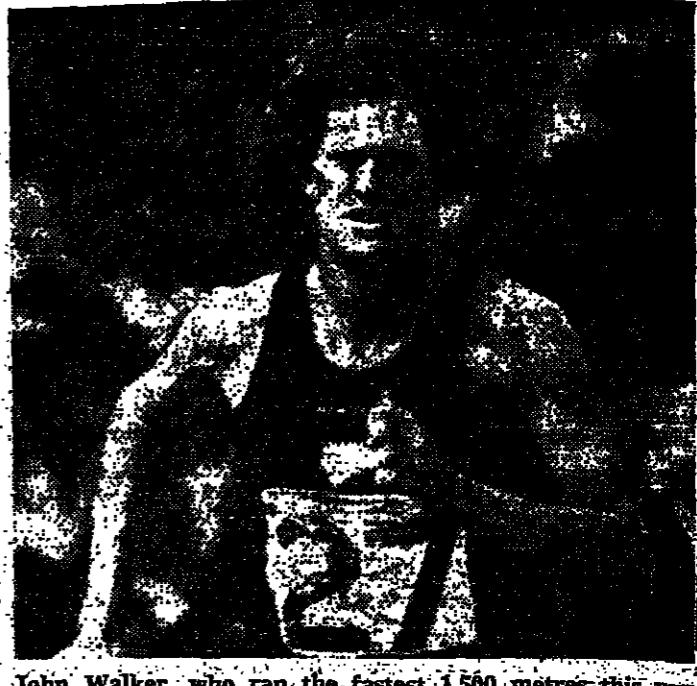
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John Walker, who ran the fastest 1,500 metres this year in spite of a wet track.

Results from Stockholm

Men	2,000 METRES	3,000 METRES	5,000 METRES	6,000 METRES STEEPLECHASE	Women
1. D. Jenkins (GBR)	2.1.1 sec	3.1 sec	4.1 sec	5.1 sec	1. D. Marlow (GBR)
2. K. Gruber (SWE)	2.1.1 sec	3.1 sec	4.1 sec	5.1 sec	2. D. Marlow (GBR)
3. J. T. Johansson (SWE)	2.1.1 sec	3.1 sec	4.1 sec	5.1 sec	3. S. Watanabe (JPN)
4. P. Munkvold (NOR)	2.1.1 sec	3.1 sec	4.1 sec	5.1 sec	4. S. Watanabe (JPN)
5. D. Johnson (GBR)	2.1.1 sec	3.1 sec	4.1 sec	5.1 sec	5. C. Johnson (GBR)
6. J. T. Johnson (GBR)	2.1.1 sec	3.1 sec	4.1 sec	5.1 sec	6. C. Johnson (GBR)
7. R. Salonen (FIN)	2.1.1 sec	3.1 sec	4.1 sec	5.1 sec	7. C. Johnson (GBR)
8. M. Gescik (POL)	2.1.1 sec	3.1 sec	4.1 sec	5.1 sec	8. C. Johnson (GBR)
9. S. Lammam (GBR)	2.1.1 sec	3.1 sec	4.1 sec	5.1 sec	9. C. Johnson (GBR)
10. S. Lammam (GBR)	2.1.1 sec	3.1 sec	4.1 sec	5.1 sec	10. C. Johnson (GBR)
11. S. Lammam (GBR)	2.1.1 sec	3.1 sec	4.1 sec	5.1 sec	11. C. Johnson (GBR)
12. S. Lammam (GBR)	2.1.1 sec	3.1 sec	4.1 sec	5.1 sec	12. C. Johnson (GBR)
13. S. Lammam (GBR)	2.1.1 sec	3.1 sec	4.1 sec	5.1 sec	13. C. Johnson (GBR)
14. S. Lammam (GBR)	2.1.1 sec	3.1 sec	4.1 sec	5.1 sec	14. C. Johnson (GBR)
15. S. Lammam (GBR)	2.1.1 sec	3.1 sec	4.1 sec	5.1 sec	15. C. Johnson (GBR)
16. S. Lammam (GBR)	2.1.1 sec	3.1 sec	4.1 sec	5.1 sec	16. C. Johnson (GBR)
17. S. Lammam (GBR)	2.1.1 sec	3.1 sec	4.1 sec	5.1 sec	17. C. Johnson (GBR)
18. S. Lammam (GBR)	2.1.1 sec	3.1 sec	4.1 sec	5.1 sec	18. C. Johnson (GBR)
19. S. Lammam (GBR)	2.1.1 sec	3.1 sec	4.1 sec	5.1 sec	19. C. Johnson (GBR)
20. S. Lammam (GBR)	2.1.1 sec	3.1 sec	4.1 sec	5.1 sec	20. C. Johnson (GBR)
21. S. Lammam (GBR)	2.1.1 sec	3.1 sec	4.1 sec	5.1 sec	21. C. Johnson (GBR)
22. S. Lammam (GBR)	2.1.1 sec	3.1 sec	4.1 sec	5.1 sec	22. C. Johnson (GBR)
23. S. Lammam (GBR)	2.1.1 sec	3.1 sec	4.1 sec	5.1 sec	23. C. Johnson (GBR)
24. S. Lammam (GBR)	2.1.1 sec	3.1 sec	4.1 sec	5.1 sec	24. C. Johnson (GBR)
25. S. Lammam (GBR)	2.1.1 sec	3.1 sec	4.1 sec	5.1 sec	25. C. Johnson (GBR)
26. S. Lammam (GBR)	2.1.1 sec	3.1 sec	4.1 sec	5.1 sec	26. C. Johnson (GBR)
27. S. Lammam (GBR)	2.1.1 sec	3.1 sec	4.1 sec	5.1 sec	27. C. Johnson (GBR)
28. S. Lammam (GBR)	2.1.1 sec	3.1 sec	4.1 sec	5.1 sec	28. C. Johnson (GBR)
29. S. Lammam (GBR)	2.1.1 sec	3.1 sec	4.1 sec	5.1 sec	29. C. Johnson (GBR)
30. S. Lammam (GBR)	2.1.1 sec	3.1 sec	4.1 sec	5.1 sec	30. C. Johnson (GBR)
31. S. Lammam (GBR)	2.1.1 sec	3.1 sec	4.1 sec	5.1 sec	31. C. Johnson (GBR)
32. S. Lammam (GBR)	2.1.1 sec	3.1 sec	4.1 sec	5.1 sec	32. C. Johnson (GBR)
33. S. Lammam (GBR)	2.1.1 sec	3.1 sec	4.1 sec	5.1 sec	33. C. Johnson (GBR)
34. S. Lammam (GBR)	2.1.1 sec	3.1 sec	4.1 sec	5.1 sec	34. C. Johnson (GBR)
35. S. Lammam (GBR)	2.1.1 sec	3.1 sec	4.1 sec	5.1 sec	35. C. Johnson (GBR)
36. S. Lammam (GBR)	2.1.1 sec	3.1 sec	4.1 sec	5.1 sec	36. C. Johnson (GBR)
37. S. Lammam (GBR)	2.1.1 sec	3.1 sec	4.1 sec	5.1 sec	37. C. Johnson (GBR)
38					

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tion, 1 bathroom.

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reception room, 1
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Ancient cotswold stone
cottage situated in
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Furnished throughout.
Excellent place of
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Shropshire & Heref.
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NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.—
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Includes excellent dining
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kitchen and bathroom. Some have a balcony, terrace or
have use of peaceful large private gardens at rear.

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PARLIAMENT, July 26, 1977

Two devolution Bills: no tax powers for Scotland and Wales

House of Commons
Mr Michael Foot, Lord President of the Council, in a statement, outlined the main changes the Government proposed to their devolved plans for Scotland and Wales. He explained the changes had been made in the light of debates in the House and other representations.

The Government would introduce two new Bills to provide for devolution respectively, for Scotland and to Wales. Mr Foot said: "The Government have always been fully and equally committed to the achievement of devolution for both countries and we will present the two Bills to the House with considerable care on the same basis. We believe that the House would welcome the separate consideration of what are dissimilar proposals."

For any question relating to the interpretation or application of the devolution Bill, the Select Committee of the Privy Council should be the final court of reference, as well as undertaking the pre-Assembly scrutiny of Scottish Assembly Bills. The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council therefore, by the sole court, determining questions on wires."

We believe that it is possible to dispense with certain of the detailed controls on the actions of the devolved administrative to provide more clear-cut arrangements.

We will propose that the Government General reserve powers should be available only in cases where a matter is prejudiced for which there is no devolved responsibility. The powers will remain as an essential safeguard to protect matters which are not devolved, for example defence, trade, the economy and industrial relations.

We will omit the proposed statutory powers to limit rents and prescribe model rent and rebate schemes.

We will no longer provide for the Secretary of State's consent being necessary for changes in the pay and pensions of Scottish teachers and for the pensions arrangements of a number of public bodies in both Scotland and Wales.

As for the assemblies themselves, we have concluded that they should be left much freer to arrange and to conduct their business and we will accordingly omit a number of the provisions in Part II of the Scotland and Wales Bill.

On reconsideration, we believe that members of the Scottish Executive should have the title of Secretary and the head of the executive the title of First Secretary. (Laughter.) We will also propose a power of premature dissolution of the Scottish Assembly dependent on a vote of at least two-thirds of its members.

We no longer propose the creation of Assembly Commissioners for the investigation of complaints against the new administrative and their officers and will instead ensure that the Scottish Assembly should be able to legislate on this matter.

We will also propose the reservation of responsibility for the pay and pensions of teachers and of health service employees in Wales.

Given the expressed concern about the structure of local government in Wales, we will propose that the Welsh Assembly should have a statutory duty to review the structure of local government.

The Government are continuing to develop the other options for a new approach to new legislation for introduction next session. The House will, of course, wish to consider them fully when they are expressed in legislative form and can provide the basis for debate.

We have already made clear that in any future debate on proportional representation for the devolved assemblies there will be a free vote on this side of the House.

In our review we have paid particular attention to the arrangements for financing the devolved services. A White Paper was being published today setting out our conclusions and the background to them.

It sets out measures which we have in mind to improve the working of the block fund arrangements.

First, we shall propose to the devolved administration the possibility of setting up an independent advisory board with the task of improving the information base for financial discussions.

Secondly, we shall propose a new approach for settling levels of devolved expenditure. The new system would relate the total of devolved expenditure to available expenditure elsewhere in the country, and would establish a percentage formula which would be maintained for a number of years,

as an alternative to negotiations every year with the devolved authorities.

The Government will wish to take account of the views of the devolved administrations on the acceptability and operation of this formula-based system.

The House will wish to know if they have not identified any satisfactory form of independent revenue-raising power for the devolved administrations. But if the new administrations wish to put forward proposals for tax powers to supplement the block grant within the conditions set out in the White Paper and the Administrations were prepared to meet the costs, the Government will consider such proposals sympathetically.

Additionally, on the establishment of the new Administrations, it is the Government's intention to seek their agreement to the establishment of joint committees on the basis of the fiscal court of reference, as well as undertaking the pre-Assembly scrutiny of Scottish Assembly Bills. The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council therefore, by the sole court, determining questions on wires."

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Mr Maudling astonished by committee's reference to resignation letter

Mr Michael Foot, Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House of Commons (Lab) had formally moved that the report of the Select Committee on the Conduct of Members be considered.

Mr Reginald Maudling (Barnet, Chipping Barnet, C), in a personal communication, said he wished to take account of the views of the devolved Administrations on the acceptability and operation of this formula-based system.

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committees described as irregularities in the conduct of the companies of which I was chairman. I have approached me for any information from the start to the very end of their investigations.

This was a certain measure of the degree to which I was involved in the affairs of Mr Pouson.

The select committee in their report make it clear (he said) that there was never any suggestion whatever of corrupt conduct on my part. They acknowledged that I knew nothing of any possible bribery.

They point out that before accepting Mr Pouson's invitation, I made very extensive inquiries about him. They say categorically that there was no evidence of malice which would suggest that there was no reason to think I was influenced by any improper motives in the interventions of Mr Pouson in Parliament in 1967, 10 years ago.

If the hospital had been designed for British forces or if withdrawal would mean abandonment of the project, clearly he would have had to make a statement to the House.

I am grateful to the select committee for making clear that there was no reason to suspect me of any wrongdoing.

He was right to say that the

House in 1967 was not in a position to accept his resignation.

In paragraph 33 of the report, the committee complained about the letter of resignation when he resigned as Home Secretary. He had read this paragraph with some concern.

He said: "This could be so because Mr Pouson's conduct had already been made clear at the beginning of the debate that the existing aid programme for hospital finance would not in any circumstances be affected."

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Government believe that the changes now proposed will result in simpler and more clear-cut arrangements for devolution and firmly secure the interests of the people of the United Kingdom.

Lord Llewelyn and Conservative signs of "Resign".

Mr Albert Roberts (Normanton, Lab) said he had welcomed the opportunity to make a statement, just as he welcomed the setting up of a select committee. He appreciated that the committee had a difficult job.

I would have preferred them (the went on) to have called us in after they had prepared their report, to allow us to comment on the account of the police and information from me, so that we could see the full impact of what Mr Foot has said?

On Wales we remain opposed, on the grounds that the people of Wales do not want it.

Apart from dividing the Bill into two, this statement is the Diluted Scottish and Wales Bill. It is a minor operation instead of major surgery. On the rejection of revenue-raising powers, can we take it that Mr Foot has persuaded the Liberal MPs that their full and detailed proposals which may they have regarded as simply unworkable and impracticable?

Can we explain why there is no mention, much less any solution of, the single most contentious problem of all, relating to the role and number of MPs representing Scottish and Welsh constituencies?

The Speaker's Conference has been established which would seem the appropriate body to consider this basic matter.

Why, after nearly a year's deliberations, have the Government failed to put their conclusions on England before the House?

This will be great disappointment that in the genuinely new proposals in this statement is the establishment of joint councils and advisory bodies which appear to be a still further governmental tier of bureaucracy on the people of Wales and Scotland who already have enough to bear.

At this point to the grievous error of accepting a dilute all-parts approach on a matter of such vital constitutional importance to the Maltese Government. I never knew at all that British taxpayers' money was going to be wasted.

His belief was that a proposition which would appeal to the sense of fairness of the House and was not barred by any standing order. (Cheers.)

Mr Derek Walker-Smith (East Hertfordshire, C) said that Eriskeine Thomas—If I discovered that it was a highly respected businessman, No one was more highly respected in the north of England than Mr Walker-Smith was a tax consultant and was made a freeman of Pontefract in 1966.

At that time (he continued) my employment with John Pouson was fading out.

There was one thing in the report that surprised him because he gave his evidence on oath and Mr Pouson gave the Speaker discretion to allow this, particularly if there was no objection from the committee.

We are dealing (he said) with a person who is a public figure and a person of influence.

He was asked whether he had any objection to the Select Committee of the House of Commons suspending him for a period of six months.

He said: "I have no objection to that, but I believe that it would be better to speak to him directly."

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Mr Foot advised House to carry matter no further

Mr Robin Maxwell-Hyslop (Tiverton, C) suggested that in spite of the convention that the MPs concerned should withdraw both Mr Maudling and Mr Roberts should be allowed to present to the House what was in their minds.

He believed that was a proportionate measure which would appeal to the sense of fairness of the House and was not barred by any standing order.

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Stock Exchange Prices

Oils shine

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, July 25. Dealings End, Aug 5. § Contango Day, Aug 8. Settlement Day, Aug 16

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

JULY 27 1977

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US imposes extra tariff on European exports

July 26.—Governments of the European Economic Community countries today said they would tell the United States collecting extra tariffs on exports, according to an offer for the European Union.

The agreement came as a protest of foreign ministers by Mr. Henri of Belgium.

A spokesman said the was to help President Carter's Administration the imposition of selling duties.

Customs Court has duties must be collected on television sets imported from Japan to make up tax refund that the Government grants to an Administration is pending against the

United States Steel is trying a similar ruling on imports of steel from Western Europe.

The commission said such a decision directly affect annual worth \$1,000m (about from the EEC.

Cases are expected to the United States Court but the commission said such a decision directly affect annual worth \$1,000m (about from the EEC.

The spokesman said that intermediate deadlines had now been discarded as unrealistic, but that this target date still held.

Herr Haferkamp reportedly

praised the Carter Administra-

tion for its "modest" approach.

Attack on subsidiaries, page 22

EC tightens curbs clothing imports

Michael Hornby

July 26.—French pressure, EEC ministers today tightened restrictions on imports of cotton yarn, tee-shirts, shirts, and women's from nine African, European and Asian countries.

This decision comes against a stand of disarray in the negotiations on new rules of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). The negotiations had deadlocked at the end of the year.

It was understood in Geneva, France will suspend unilaterally-imposed restrictions on textile imports until satisfactory results being obtained in bilateral negotiations with the main textile exporting countries between now and the end of the year.

In a separate decision, the ministers today agreed to introduce and then immediately suspend a 15 per cent antidumping duty on imports of Japanese ball bearings. The duty will be held in reserve and imposed if the Japanese do not honour promises they have given to raise prices.

UK plea for talks, page 23

Vitteveen facility' nears approval

David Gross

July 26.—International Monetary Fund's long-awaited loan scheme to help with large balance of payments deficits during the next three years, worth of about IMF members, Dr. Witteveen, the Foreign Minister, said that his government concluded that the Commission exceeded its mandate in accepting an American proposal under the protocol renewing FA would allow "reasonable departures" from its pro-

tectionist policies. The result of the ministers' decision is that the Commission says that the EC's signature of the protocol would be dependent on satisfactory results being obtained in bilateral negotiations with the main textile exporting countries between now and the end of the year.

In a separate decision, the ministers today agreed to introduce and then immediately suspend a 15 per cent antidumping duty on imports of Japanese ball bearings. The duty will be held in reserve and imposed if the Japanese do not honour promises they have given to raise prices.

Although the IMF has still made no official announcement

on the "Witteveen facility", after Dr. Witteveen, the present managing director of the IMF, would nearly double the resources available in the fund by 1978 when existing quotas are due to be substantially increased.

IMF officials appear confident that the Paris meeting should produce agreement among prospective lenders on the size of their contributions, the interest rates to be charged and the period during which the new supplementary facilities should be made available to need IMF members.

However, final approval of the scheme will not be forthcoming until all the members of the IMF and its executive board have given approval.

Well-informed sources are confident that this can be achieved by the end of September at the latest when the fund holds its annual meeting here.

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Members of the Food Policy Committee of the Retail Consortium will debate coffee today after hearing from Mr. Ivor Lightman, Under Secretary in the food prices division of the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection, that any suggestion must offer adequate protection against rising prices to shoppers.

This rules out the consortium's offer to accept maximum price control of the type already used with subsidized foods. Such control on coffee would not secure the price cuts of up to 8p on a four-ounce jar that would result from the Government's plan.

Ministers want to cut prices by imposing a curb on cash margins of instant coffee

NatWest on target with first half £110m

By Our Financial Staff

National Westminster Bank yesterday reported first half profits of £110m, echoing the performance of Midland Bank and Lloyds Bank last week.

This was on target with City estimates, which had been rapidly upgraded after the better-than-expected results from Midland and Lloyds. It represented a 37 per cent improvement on the first half of 1976 and a 2 per cent gain on the second half.

Despite the strong first-half performance, however, NatWest forecast that its second-half profits were unlikely to match the first half and Mr. Alex Dibbs, who steps down as chief executive at the end of this year, gave a warning that bank charges could go up soon.

He emphasized that the bank had not notified the Price Commission of any scheme to put up its charges and there was no immediate plan to do so, but he said: "We may have to approach them again". Any increase in personal charges would be "modest".

Last year's increase in charges was one factor behind the rise in profits, which took place against a background of sharply falling interest rates.

During the period base rates averaged 10.54 per cent compared with 12.24 per cent in the second half of last year.

Despite this fall, domestic clearing bank profits were only slightly down on the second half. Aside from higher commission charges the bank benefited from a widening of the margin between its base and deposit rates. It has also seen an increase in its current account balances, a surprising resilience in its seven day deposits which declined only marginally, and a relative fall in its expensive money market deposits.

Most of the growth came from the international operations, whose contribution rose from 25 to 30 per cent, and the related banking services.

Better results were also reported yesterday by Midland

Bank. Profits during the first half were £15.8m compared with £11.8m in the first half of last year and £30.4m for the whole of 1976.

Financial Editor, page 23

'Express' group loss put at £1.7m

By Our Financial Staff

Beverbrook Newspapers is estimated to have lost "not more than £1.7m" during its 1976-77 financial year, of which £1.45m fell in the first six months.

In a letter to shareholders contained in the official offer for the company from Sir Max Aitken, Beverbrook's new president, says that while Trafigura has stated its intention to continue publication of the three main Beaverbrook titles, subject to their profitability, a reduction in the number of employees may be necessary to ensure stability and security in the longer term.

Sending out its intention to reduce Beaverbrook, Trafigura says any reduction in the number of employees will only be made after full consultation with union representatives.

Policy is to concentrate Beaverbrook's London printing and publishing activities in the Express building in Fleet Street, but Trafigura adds that if this results in areas becoming surplus to the requirements of the business they may be sold.

Mr. Nigel Brookes, chairman of Trafigura, says his group had identified a potential interest in the printing and publishing business some time ago.

It would be premature, he says, to discuss further ambitions in this area, which would in any case be influenced to some extent by experience with Beaverbrook.

Financial Editor, page 23

BAT half-year profits of £217m

BAT Industries, the world's largest manufacturer of tobacco products and one of Europe's top three commercial organizations, made profits of £217m before tax in the six months to the end of March.

Sales in the half year topped £3,000m, and the news helped BAT's shares to close 5p higher at 247p yesterday.

Financial Editor, page 23

Lords hearing today on RTZ executives

An appeal by seven senior executives of Rio Tinto-Zinc for a stay against being compelled to give evidence before a United States court will be heard in the House of Lords today.

The western industrialized nations originally agreed to put up half the total requested by Dr. Witteveen, but Saudi Arabia balked at the invitation to supply \$4,750m. Because of their other aid commitments, the Saudis maintained they can provide no more than \$2,500m.

Dr. Blake writes: "Top monetary officials of the western industrial world's 10 most powerful nations will meet in Paris tomorrow to try to reach final agreement on the terms of the Witteveen deal."

The meeting will give the industrial countries a chance to hold a last caucus before the meeting of finance ministers on August 6.

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Ministers want to cut prices by imposing a curb on cash

margins of instant coffee

Three days for grocers to revise coffee price plan

By Hugh Clayton

Grocers who oppose the Government's plan to impose a curb on instant coffee profits have been given three days to find an alternative.

Members of the Food Policy Committee of the Retail Consortium will debate coffee today after hearing from Mr. Ivor Lightman, Under Secretary in the food prices division of the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection, that any suggestion must offer adequate protection against rising prices to shoppers.

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Ministers want to cut prices by imposing a curb on cash

margins of instant coffee

ANGLO AMERICAN CORPORATION GROUP TRANSVAAL GOLD MINING COMPANIES INTERIM DIVIDENDS—FINANCIAL YEARS ENDING 31st DECEMBER 1977

The dividend notice advertised in the press on the 10th June, the conversion rate applicable to payments in United Kingdom currency except of the undistributed dividends to shareholders registered on 24th June, 1977, is £1= R1.427787.

The effective rate of South African non-resident shareholders' tax is 10 per cent.

Details of the dividends concerned are as follows:

£ per share (each of which is incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)

Dividend No.

Rate of dividend per share (in £ per share)

UK currency equivalent per share

R1.427787

31st July 1977

For and on behalf of ANGLO AMERICAN CORPORATION OF SOUTH AFRICA LIMITED London Secretaries J. C. Green Smith

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American official attacks subsidies as 'subtle form of protectionism'

By Melvyn Westlake

A senior United States Government official yesterday attacked the "new and subtle" forms of trade protectionism which many countries are now resorting to in an effort to bolster employment. He included the two-year-old British scheme to subsidize exporters against inflation among the new forms.

Speaking to journalists in London, Mr Frank Weil, Assistant Secretary of the United States Commerce Department, characterized such schemes as "offensive protectionism".

Mr Weil, who was meeting Mr Dell, the Secretary of State for Trade later in the day, stressed his concern about protectionism when he spoke to the United Kingdom Marketing Society last night.

On neither occasion did he mention Britain by name. But he said that among the new devices contrived by governments were subsidies, government procurement policies, and the whole area covered by non-tariff barriers.

He particularly noted the scheme to protect exporters against losses from rising production costs. This kind of inflation insurance is most pro-

mamente used by Britain and France.

Mr Weil drew a distinction between this kind of offensive protectionism and the defensive kind of traditional trade barrier. The former was more difficult to detect because it was less visible.

He accepted that the high level of his country's oil imports meant that the United States would have a large trade deficit for some years. Unlike some officials in the United States Treasury, he did not think that the American Government could just sit back and leave the dollar to take the strain on the international foreign exchange markets. The floating regime of currencies would not be a sufficient mechanism.

Mr Weil characterized American policy in this area as "restrained determination". The Government was "determined not to let events lead us". But there was also need for restraint in American policy because of the influence that any action would have on the rest of the world.

He thought there was still some scope for the dollar to depreciate against the West German mark and the Japanese yen.

But he pointed to a paradox in the dollar float: the larger the United States foreign oil deficit, the more dollars would flow back to New York in the form of investments. This would tend to support the dollar. Exchange rate adjustment would continue to play a big part in correcting international trade flows. But they were only part of the competitive picture for exports, Mr Weil said.

The international trade landscape was a panorama of trade barriers, export subsidies, financial arrangements, marketing techniques, and barter.

The British scheme, he objected to, was first introduced early in 1975 and was extended by Parliament in February.

It is no secret that the Americans object to the scheme, and there have been suggestions that it should be investigated by the Geneva-based General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

His view was that the United States should seek to reduce its enormous trade deficit by increasing exports, but only by dismantling trade barriers

would this be possible.

UK plea for prompt start on bilateral textile talks

By Peter Hill

Calls for an immediate start to bilateral negotiations designed to produce trading agreements between textile importing and exporting countries came yesterday from the British Textile Confederation.

Dr Brian Smith, the BTC's president, commenting on the outcome of the latest round of talks on the future of the Gatt Multi Fibre Arrangement—the pact intended to promote controlled development of trade in textiles—said everyone who wished for orderly progression hoped that the suspension of the MFA talks in Geneva was only temporary.

Energy spending rose to £250 a head last year

More than £13,500 was spent on energy in Britain during 1976, a rise of 20 per cent on the previous year, and the equivalent of nearly £250 for every person in the country. Five years ago the figure was £100.

Although the cost of energy rose by 20 per cent, the use of fuel increased by only 1.5 per cent, according to the 1977 edition of the Digest of United Kingdom Energy Statistics, published by the Stationery Office today.

Earlier this week the United States proposed a four-year extension of the present pact,

most efficient and productive sectors of the national economy today—which, except for a brief period during the energy crisis of 1973-74, have never failed to function properly since the Second World War.

"We recommend the Wilson Committee to seek the cure for the 'English disease' in the environment not in the structures. The structures are sound."

In some detail the committee's evidence points to the flexibility and innovation of British capital market mechanisms, and also to the fact that they are cheaper to use than in most other major centres.

This view is supported by data on comparable commission rates in other major financial centres, which, in the case of France and Germany, have not been widely published before.

Turning to the question of whether sufficient funds have been available for British industry, the committee says the banks have provided companies with all the money required in the way of short-term loans, and they have also responded to the fall in demand for debenture money by offering medium-term finance.

Meanwhile, despite the introduction of medium-term lending institutions, the demand for

funds remains well below what is available.

Defending the role of the stock market, the committee says it can provide capital cheaply and efficiently because it can also provide the background for investors to deal.

Finally, the committee records that the lack of an environment in contemporary Britain which favours new ventures is an ominous portent for the future, since it is only from the inventiveness and risk-taking of innumerable small ventures that the competitiveness of British industry and commerce can be refreshed and sustained.



Mr J. H. Smith (left), deputy chairman and Sir Denis Cooke, chairman, at yesterday's annual meeting of the British Gas Corporation.

Gas chairman pledges price stability despite higher cost of supplies

By Roger Vielvoye

Gas from the Anglo-Norwegian Frigg field in the far north of the North Sea will cost more than twice as much as supplies from the southern basin when it arrives in October, Sir Denis Cooke, chairman of the British Gas Corporation, said yesterday.

Despite the sharp rise in the cost of supplies, the corporation said it will be able to fulfil its hopes of keeping gas prices frozen until next April. Sir Denis explained that the higher cost would be offset by the ending of expenditure on conversions to natural gas.

Supplies from Frigg will come at an initial rate of 700 million cubic feet a day and will build up to 1,500 million cubic feet a day, about 40 per cent of the gas available. By 1980 there will be further supplies of high-priced gas available from the Brent field.

British Gas is paying around 1.7p to 1.8p a therm for supplies from the established gas fields in the southern North Sea and is reselling the fuel to its domestic customers at more than 1.7p a therm. Sir Denis declined to give the exact cost of supplies from the southern or northern parts of the North Sea.

He was presenting the corporation's report and accounts, which showed a profit for the year ended March 31 of £31.5m compared with £25.1m.

The corporation, however, exceeded its profit reference levels by £36m and has undertaken to keep prices frozen until this is absorbed. The pledge to keep prices frozen until next April is "subject to the Government's handling of the economy and particularly to the extent to which inflation, however fuelled, is brought under control".

Prices were increased in April by 10 per cent so that the corporation can, at the Government's request, repay an extra £100m to the National Loans Fund.

Mr J. H. Smith, the corporation's deputy chairman, called for an early establishment of government-agreed financial targets for nationalized industries.

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Greater freedom urged in use of Post Office lines

By Kenneth Owen

Business users of Post Office telecommunications services should have greater freedom of choice in the equipment they are allowed to connect to Post Office lines, according to the telecommunications managers division of the Institute of Administrative Management.

In a comment on the recently

published report by the Post

Office Review Committee,

chaired by Mr Charles Carter, the division says it is dis-

appointed that the committee

did not come out solidly for greater freedom of choice.

Instead, the division says, users have been left with a familiar promise of "jam tomorrow". Leaving the decision to the proposed advisory council, as recommended by the committee, "will inevitably deprive industry and commerce from taking full advantage of the technology on the world market for some time to come".

The committee noted that in some other countries, notably the United States, the supply of subscribers' terminal equipment had already been liberalized substantially. And experience in the United States seemed to have shown that this could be done without endangering the telephone network.

We are not convinced that the balance of advantage to the community favours continuation of the monopoly in the United Kingdom", the committee reported.

Though generally welcoming the Carter report, the division had been among those who consistently favoured a split between post and telecommunications, the group expresses disappointment also that the committee was not more positive about the Post Office structure below board level.

The division says it believes there is a "glaring need" to strengthen the Post Office Users' National Council by including in its membership a much higher percentage of professional communications management.

It is true that in contrast with other groups civil engineers have for well over a century taken an interest in the education of their members, which has only recently been matched by the mechanicals. But civil engineers, however fine, have few themselves to be closely associated with the managements of the enterprises they have served.

Mechanical and electrical engineers have striven to achieve a similar relationship, and were making good progress until the advent of industrial relations Acts drafted to secure industrial peace in practice having the unfortunate side-effect of further alienating management from those engineers upon whose knowledge and efforts the long-term success of most technology-based industry must depend.

This alienation is causing groups of engineers to present their cases for separate representation to the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service. Let us hope that ACAS uses the skill and wisdom to produce solutions which, while securing industrial peace, also restore confidence in the careers of those in whose virtue our industrial future inevitably resides. To secure one without the other will not do.

Yours, etc.,

D. E. GLOVER,

4 Upperton Road,

Sidcup,

Kent.

DA14 6AT.

July 21.

Figures not available.

* Estimate

* Excluding school leavers

UNEMPLOYMENT

The following are the monthly figures for Great Britain released by the Department of Employment

Total Seasonally adjusted

unadjusted

adult vice

age

1976

July

1,402

1,237

5.4

117

Aug.

1,440

1,256

5.5

124

Sept.

1,395

1,256

5.5

124

Oct.

1,321

1,256

5.5

123

Nov.

1,316

1,273

5.5

121

Dec.

1,316

1,273

5.5

121

1977

Jan.

1,390

1,285

5.6

149

Feb.

1,365

1,278

5.5

124

March

1,328

1,285

5.5

124

April

1,336

1,289

5.5

127

sense
ledRole
trust
pension
Scheme

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

International thrust from the banks

It is already plain from Lloyds' and its results that non-clearing bank will be the salvation of bank this year, and National Westminster's figures reinforce the point. Its banking operations such as County have been showing through well, but the motive force behind a 37 per cent improvement on the first-half of last year was a 2 per cent gain on the second half clearly come from international now 30 per cent of the total.

At the same time moves into retailing, paper and cosmetics have not so far been achieved by a write-off on oil-edged sales in half and some significant exchange gains in the second, but the underlying appears to be that earnings have at a rate about a third above last year's second half. So notwithstanding the 40 drop in the shares to 93p, performance was thoroughly respectable.

Grindlays' case the United Kingdom, to money market operations and a showing from Grindlays' currency and export credit operations, an important factor, but it would appear that the general worldwide has been good, most particularly Middle East.

It would be broadly borne out by Natura's experience, for although its advances relatively flat as a result of some large oil loan repayments, grass roots of trade has been highly active to reform the problem for Grindlays' in its balance sheet. A property situation is under way this year which will strengthen the overall capital base and key "free capital" ratio.

The implication of last year's growth in of around 30 per cent is that the feels under no constraint as a result of relatively weak capital position, and appear the Bank of England accepts the presence of such powerful share-

holders as Citibank and Lloyds leaves less or worry about simple balance sheet than might otherwise be the case.

As far as the City is concerned, however, still assumed that at some stage will want to do something to its capital with new equity. But obvious problems remain. One is evident: the interim 1.52 gross pay still little more than nominal.

Other is more far reaching and

is the whole question of whether Citi- and Lloyds want to maintain—indeed their present investment and

in this context it still makes sense outside investors to stay for the ride the big shareholders take the real

Industries

Overseas earnings he gap

Industries continues to make 60 per cent of its profits from the 40 per cent of its tobacco business. Therein lies partly irresolvable dilemma.

group's penetration of growing mar-

ket for tobacco products in the Third

penetration significantly helped by

cent £82m acquisition of the American

company Lorillard's overseas busi-

nesses in to show in cigarettes than

non-tobacco interests.

the stockmarket takes its view on

a sector from the Royal College of

ians rather than BAT's salesmen. So

the group's trading strength can

weakness in investment terms.

year profits above most forecasts,

come with guarded prediction

full year suggesting profits of around

That helped the shares to rise 5p

yesterday, a rally against the general

that contrasts with several years'

performance against the market as a

and even against a generally friend-

sector in the United States and

many have gone some way to easing

of declining volume sales and

rides on new low strength brand

to break the dangerous pattern of

market share in static markets.

as health worries force a contraction

developed markets, competition in the

World increases and BAT's long-held

Business Diary: Blue streak • Whither Sir Arthur?

the more arcane rules Common Agricultural of the EEC is forcing Hardwick to throw tons of good meat at a which he puts at 250,000

Hardwick, who is meat and supplies manager for Bird's Eye frozen subsidiary buys more 20,000 tons of meat a most of it from outside EC. Like other processing he likes beef forevers from West Germany. arrive without the more give cuts like filler and. Moreover, they can

Community subsidies of the low level of farm support prices in

fortunately, the unity insists that the ink for marking such meat it has been passed by inspectors is methyl which comes in a particular and indefinable state. ink is the same as that off that goes for dog Hardwick said. Birds is to trim about half a of lean from each fore- to remove the ink persists through process-

ish opposition to the ink coordinated by the and Livestock Commission which has found a strong for a red or brown ink closer to the colour of heat. "On casting alone absolutely essential that this type of marking," said.

We watch with interest the progress of a proposed new

The industry's favourite to take the place of vicer is Brown PK.

Sir Arthur Cockfield, never the most talkative men in his four years as chairman of the Price Commission was not saying yesterday what he plans to do after his retirement this weekend. He will be succeeded by Charles Williams, a managing director of Branks' and City Labour supporter.

I am taking a holiday while I can. I find you can only get a decent holiday when you finish a job," Sir Arthur told Business Diary. He was presenting his last quarterly report yesterday at the Commission's Page Street headquarters and recalled how he and his team have dealt with more than 30,000 price increase notifications and reduced prices by some £3.500m a year.

Many, an industrialist has complained about his legalistic hair-splitting approach. Sir Arthur says he did not prefer it that way but that the system basically legalistic, it obviously moved that way. Companies were also given a spicing here, too, he pointed out.

Sir Arthur, who has been giving the impression that he will be life, said he has shaken the Page Street dust off his feet, plans to visit Lady Cockfield on her travels to South America in October. They are going by Swedish cargo vessel.

We watch with interest the progress of a proposed new

TRANSPORT HOUSE



"Don't worry, when the BMA needs picketing help it will come crawling."

publication, a "Who's Who in Financial Journalism". The idea is that of Leo Cavendish, a director of a firm of financial public relations consultants. The project might have got off the ground two years ago but it had not been for the sharp changes which took place last year, resulting first from the death of the Evening Standard's City Editor, David Mabert, and then the moves of Kenneth Fleet to The Sunday Times, his successor, The Daily Telegraph, by Andrews Whitburn Smith, formerly editor of Investors Chronicle.

When the dust settled, Cavendish got City editors to agree to circulate their stats with a questionnaire, of which over 400 have gone out.

With another week to go before questionnaires are due, the compilers say they are confident of the project's suc-

cess. If so, then Business

Finance's screw poll suggests that there will have to be quite a change of heart in the form of filers.

Cavendish says: "Many people in business feel a bit happier to know a bit about the people they are dealing with."

Everybody knows about the difficulty of getting goods to Nigeria, plenty of transport but few facilities for handling it when it gets there, but what of the less spectacular countries of west Africa?

Kevin McPhilips, Mike Owen and Lynn Wilson formed their own airline, Redcoat Air Cargo, last May with £15,000 of their own capital.

They started from a 12ft by 8ft office in the old "Gatwick" terminal at Gatwick, a room so small that when Redcoat had a visitor one of the three had

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY JULY 27 1977

Jeremy Russell examines the state of the Soviet Union's oil industry and its implications for Comecon

CIA too gloomy over Russian oil prospects

There has been much contro-
versy in recent weeks about
the state of the Soviet Union's
oil industry and the repercus-
sions of this upon future
Soviet and European needs to import oil from outside the Comecon.

This controversy was sparked off by comments in a CIA report entitled Prospects for Soviet oil production, in which it is estimated that proven Soviet oil reserves are only 30-35,000 million barrels that Russian oil production will soon peak, possibly as early as 1978, that the maximum level of output will be between 550 and 600 million tons per annum, and, most significantly, that the subsequent decline in production will occur rapidly and may be sharp, resulting in a net import requirement for the USSR and Eastern Europe of between 175 and 225 million tons of oil per annum by 1985.

The main arguments upon which the CIA report bases its assessment of Soviet oil production capabilities centre around a declining reserves-to-production ratio, a major water-encroachment problem, and a high depletion-substitution rate, or the amount of new capacity which must be created annually in order to compensate for declining production in older areas.

It is well known that Soviet oil reserve statistics are unpublished and inaccurate as state secrets, but a number of recent surveys by independent oil industry specialists based on a fairly detailed knowledge of the geological structure of the large sedimentary areas encompassed by the Soviet Union, point to a conservative proven reserve of over 50,000 million barrels, a figure which could be significantly increased if more effective production techniques were to be used. The average proven figure for Soviet Union is currently rather low at between 20 and 25 per cent, whereas in other parts of the world, the average recovery of over 30 per cent is now achieved and continuous improvements in recovery techniques point to an ultimate recovery level of between 40 and 50 per cent. A higher proven reserve figure would allow higher production rates and a broader plateau when peak production rates are reached.

It is true that a lot of the most promising areas are situated in increasingly distant and inaccessible parts of the country with harsh geographic and climatic conditions, but the Russian oil industry has shown itself capable of meeting some daunting challenges in the past and expresses itself, today, confident of coping with them in the future.

Water-encroachment and depletion-substitution are certainly among the more serious of the many problems with which the Soviet oil producers have to contend, but they are not new problems and the industry's planners and managers have been taking them into account for many years. The Russian drilling effort has in fact been concentrating in recent years upon development, as opposed to exploration, as would be expected if maximum attention were being paid to water injection.

The Soviet oil industry is in the process of proving up between 2,000,000 and 4,000,000 barrels of additional oil every year between 1980 and 1985 if the production target for that year is to be met, and greater effort is now being devoted to exploration.

The discovery sequence of new Russian oil does not appear to have declined over the last decade and while the Soviet media have been quieter than usual on the subject of large new oil finds, there is no fundamental reason why adequate quantities of additional oil should not be discovered at a rate sufficient to allow the present level of oil production of 550 million tons per annum to be increased to the 640 mil-

lion tons target figure for 1980. A sharp decline in production is, moreover, considered extremely unlikely in that even when peak production is reached, particularly when a lot of different oilfields are involved, production can be maintained on a plateau for a number of years until a gradual decline sets in.

There is no doubt that the larger proven reserves of natural gas, already put at over 25 trillion cubic metres, natural gas exports will undoubtedly come to play a major and growing role in securing hard currency earnings for the Soviet Union during the next decade but it would be several years before they could compensate both for a total elimination of petroleum exports and for oil import financing.

Russia has enormous reserves of coal and it is a net exporter of some 15 million tons annually, but it is not expected that coal exports can be increased substantially in the near future.

In 1980, the East European countries will need to import about 100 million tons of oil, of which at least 80 million tons should come from the Soviet Union. By 1985, however, even if oil consumption is restrained in favour of greater use of coal and gas, import requirements will be aggravated by import finance problem. It would be necessary to maintain a hard currency balance between the Soviet Union and its allies and to eliminate the International Monetary Fund.

Much of East Europe's hard currency borrowing is to finance investment, particularly in export industries. Nevertheless, if East Europe had to contend with a severely aggravated energy import finance problem it would necessarily exacerbate the political and economic relationship between the Soviet Union and its allies and financial relations between the Comecon as a whole and the West.

For the time being, however, Russian oil supplies to its European Comecon allies have been guaranteed with small annual increases, until 1980 and it is likely that, thereafter, additional supplies will be assured for the next five-year plan period up to 1985.

The East European countries will already invested heavily in the development of the Soviet oil and gas industries and will be expected to continue to do so in return for that security of supply which the Soviet Union provides.

Although Russian oil consumption figures are also never published it is possible to calculate, from production and net export figures, that Soviet oil consumption has been increasing at slightly over 7 per cent during the early part of the 1970s and although this rate has recently declined, it is likely that, thereafter, additional supplies will be assured for the next five-year plan period up to 1985.

The East European countries will be paying as much as \$100 million for oil as they would be able to import from OPEC, although at present they are still getting it cheaper.

Energy imports are, of course, a chronic financial burden for East European countries.

If the Soviet Union is 1977.

The author is deputy head of the East Europe Division of Shell International, a Factor in Soviet Foreign Policy, published in 1976 for the Royal Institute of International Affairs (London).

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in fifty countries last year



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Armitage Shanks have established a worldwide reputation, not only for luxury bathroom suites for the home, but for a whole range of quality fixtures and fittings for hospitals, hotels, commercial premises and public buildings of all kinds.

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Extracts from the Chairman's Statement

The building industry had taken a succession of blows which few other sectors could have endured, said Mr. Kennedy Campbell in his statement to shareholders. Market conditions in the construction industry in the U.K. had remained at a very low ebb during the year although export markets were maintaining the recovery begun in the second half of the year.

Mr. Kennedy Campbell concluded: "If hard work, care and application to the job are the remedies for our present problems, my belief is that the future is brighter, is assured."

armitage shanks A Better Bathrooms

Head Office: Armitage Shanks Group Limited, Armitage, Staffordshire.

Dr Burns critical of interest rate stipulation in Bill to reform Fed

Washington, July 26.—Dr Arthur Burns, the Federal Reserve chairman, today criticized the monetary policy sections of the Federal Reserve Reform Bill of 1977 before the House committee on banking finance and urban affairs.

He said the Bill's provisions if enacted "would be inimical to the orderly functioning of financial markets."

The section of the Bill which requires the Fed to give quarterly projections of interest rate levels for the 12 months ahead "is particularly ill-advised", he said.

The reason for reticence on this subject should be obvious.

While the Federal Reserve cannot determine market interest rates it certainly can influence them—particularly in the short run."

Such reports could "rock financial markets".

Carter optimism: President Carter and his advisers gave an

optimistic report on the economy when they conferred with congressional leaders at the White House, Mr Jim Wright, of Texas, the House majority leader stated.

He quoted Mr Charles Schulze, chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors, as saying the economy had been recovering at a highly satisfactory rate during the first quarter of 1977.

He said the only note of concern involved the failure so far of the Senate and the House to resolve differences over car emission standards in the Clean Air Act.

Mr Wright said the group was told that failure to resolve the differences before the congressional recess next month might precipitate the shutdown of the motor industry. The industry says it cannot meet emission standards laid down for 1978 model cars.

Inflation forecast: Mr Bert Lance, budget director, said the United States inflation rate would be in the neighbourhood of 6 per cent in 1978, but pointing downward.

In testimony for the joint congressional economic committee, he agreed with the recent testimony of Mr Schulze, that the real gross national product rate would be over 5 per cent both this year and next, which is a lower rate than earlier estimates.

Testifying on the state of the economy, Mr Lance said the fiscal 1977 budget, for the year ending October 1, would show a deficit of \$48,100m (about £28,300m), about \$600m below the April estimate.

For fiscal 1978, starting October 1, Mr Lance forecast a wider budget deficit than seen in April. He expected a \$61,500m deficit rather than the \$57,900m deficit earlier forecast.

Inflation forecast: Mr Bert

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Inflation forecast: Mr Bert

Companies in north-east boost ECGD cover 50pc

By Ronald Kershaw
Yorkshire and north-east region of the Export Credits Guarantee Department yesterday reported that exports covered during the year March 31, amounted to £1,077m, a 50 per cent increase on the previous year's total.

Companies holding credit insurance guarantees in the region rose from £1,313m to £1,366m. Exports that prospered during the year included textiles, frozen fish and prefabricated buildings.

Mr Bill Ford, director of the ECGD Leeds office, estimated that 75 per cent of exporting companies in the region were now using the department's facilities.

For the 806 exporters covered in West Yorkshire the value of insured business in 1976-77 was £567m. Some 91

companies in the area became new policy holders with ECGD during the year.

Other figures are: North Yorkshire, £38m from 68 policyholders; South Yorkshire, £240m from 223 policyholders; North Humberside, £79 from 89 policyholders; South Humberside, £20m from 32.

Exporters in the north-eastern counties of Cleveland, Durham, Northumberland and Tyne and Wear contributed £132m.

Eighteen companies, 17 of them either based in the northern region or served by regional manufacturing plants, are to participate in an eight-day intensive selling drive in Hong Kong next month.

The mission, sponsored by the North of England Development Council considers Hongkong to be one of the most buoyant growth markets in the world.

Business appointments

Harrison and Crosfield's new chairman

Mr Thomas Prentice has succeeded Mr J. F. E. Gilchrist as chairman of Harrison and Crosfield. He remains a director.

Mr A. G. Andrews has been elected to the board of Marston, Thompson and Evershed. Mr K. R. Brown, company secretary, becomes a special director.

Mr N. C. MacDiarmid has resigned as chairman of Sketchley but remains a non-executive director. The board has appointed Mr G. Wightman, chief executive, to be chairman and chief executive.

Mr David Elsbury has been made a deputy managing director of Racal Electronics.

Mr M. G. Wilcox has been appointed chairman of the Export Guarantees Advisory Council in succession to Sir Michael Wilson. Mr Wilcox is a director and chief general manager of Midland Bank.

Mr R. A. S. Lane, vice-chairman of Standard Chartered Bank, becomes deputy chairman of the council.

Mr A. W. Higgins and Mr A. O. Ritchie have been made members.

Sir James Dunnert has been elected president of the Institute of Manpower Studies in succession to Sir Rowland Wright.

Mr Don J. Thompson has been appointed regional vice-president,

Appointments Vacant also on page 28

MALAWI LAND OF LAKES AND SUNSHINE

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MALAWI!

Societies' outlets now 3,696

Building societies opened another 321 branches last year, bringing the total to 3,696.

More than 65 per cent of the movement's staff, now exceeding 37,000, work in branch offices.

The annual report of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies, who is also the Government-appointed watchdog for building society affairs, says the number of societies have declined from 383 to 364.

Of the 18 societies involved, 13 of them merged with other friendly societies. At the time of the report—June this year—the number had declined still further to 354.

Despite a drop in volume in the commercial vehicle market, Arlington Motor Holdings, one of the largest truck distributors in the country, boosted profits by 20 per cent.

In the 12 months to March 31, the group turned in pre-tax profits of £651,000 against a previous £542,000, on turnover up 25 per cent to £31m.

Most of the improvement came from the vans division but profits from ancillary activities were also up.

Although volume of heavy lorries was down—from 65,000 to 58,000—the group is looking for an upturn of around 7 per cent in the current year.

Mr Norman Housden, chairman, is confident that the three-year recession in the truck market has bottomed out and demand is growing. April-June sales of light vans were up 12 per cent on last time while car sales showed a 43 per cent increase.

However a hold-up in the supply of heavy trucks could be a constraint in the current year.

The group is already having some delivery problems and Mr John Heywood, managing director, fears that Arlington's suppliers British Leyland and Bedford may not be able to match the expected upturn in demand.

The contract-hire side of the business has shown considerable growth over the past couple of years. The group now has a fleet of 300 vehicles and expects increasing this to around 500 by the end of next year.

Plans are also going ahead to open a depot for short hire lorries and Arlington may spend up to £500,000 on this project.

western Europe, Africa and the Middle East for Gulf Trading and Transportation, based in London.

Mr C. E. C. Cooke has been appointed chairman of Combined Merchant Components. His successor is Mr R. A. K. Duckett. Mr P. G. R. Lewis, formerly finance director and company secretary, joins Mr G. Carroll as joint managing director. Mr C. S. E. M. Bagstaff becomes commercial director and Mr I. D. Whaley company secretary.

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Star costs king Lockheed markets

Sharp reaction to Monday's gains

Prices reacted sharply yesterday to Monday's technical advance, though a little off the pace. The FT Index closed 7.3 points up.

The market got off to a weak start, the dockers' pay and some unfavourable news from brokers on the oil outlook caused prices to drop. The decline on Wall Street, after dragging on sentiment, mid-afternoon did see a slight improvement because of better than figures from British Tobacco and its management figures which had hopes of moderation.

Some of the unfavourable news of news gilt-edged bonds had to go ahead trading. But they could gain the higher levels.

In certain cases, dealers' stories (Furnishers) turned to profits in the first half-year. The year's come on Friday. Net profits are expected to come from just over £2m (for £1.5m) to around £400,000. In the meantime, the group hit by the cost of rearing stores. After a run over talk, the shares have been back recently. The trade at 39p and the 30p.

Rises of up to one per cent were soon lost with stocks reverting to their levels. The total value of all deals in the last account was compared with those in the preceding year. The total value for companies at £712.8m to £697.2m, bettered what was expected return from BAT, which some brokers to quickly upwards towards their estimates for the full year, had the industries at 24.7% and the d at 21.5% both up to 5p.

Further news soon after Industries sparked life in Jevons Cooper and with a gain of 5p.

to 63p while Gallerkamp also sprung to life on the prospect of further takeover news and ended 12p ahead at 322p.

Confirmation of an approach had Assam Frontier better by another 45p to 275p making a gain of 88p in two days of trading. News that a director had sold a 20 per cent plus stake after resigning excited the shares of Norwest Holt which ended the day 8p higher at 72p.

Newcomer EJ Riley opened up at 31p but fell back to 27p by the close.

Reports of another successful well in the Brae Field sparked Sieben Oil to life with a jump of 12p to 270p after 260p. In sympathy and waiting for news from the Thelma Field Oil Exploration, rose 19p to 24p.

There was a revival of talk the Ultramar will soon be involved in some sort of deal, probably with US interests. With strong US support, the shares went ahead to end with a gain of 7p to 186p. But the environmental problems associated with the Mesa field clamped 2p to 141p from P & O while lower earnings from Shell left the shares 5p off at 55p.

BAT apart other results to

command interest were Taylor Woodrow, which slipped 6p to 350p on some disappointment, and Davy International, mentioned here, which dropped 6p to 220p after figures up to expectations were overcome by profit-taking.

Liquidation plans had Northern Irish Scottish Investments 5p up to 30p, while the capitalization plans lifted toy-maker Dunbee Comtex 5p to 23p.

In the banking sector National Westminster succumbed to profit-taking after profits which were up to the mark and lost 4p to 224p. There was a similar story at Grindlays, which gave up 4p to 93p, while the other clearers also retreated with Midland lowered 2p to 293p, Barclays 3p to 275p.

In the mining sector tin shares did well, notably Gevcor 10p to 350p to the good and Southern Malayan which put on 7p to 197p. Gold 350p made up 12p to 369p. Harmony 7p to 320p and among the heavyweights, F. S. Gudell up 6p to 10.50 and Western Holdings 5p to 13.25.

Motor dealer Arlington up on a couple of pence to 81p after its statement.

Latest results

Company	Sales £m	Profits £m	Earnings per share	Div pence	Pay date	Year's total
Int'l Fin. (F)	31.01(2.723)	0.65(0.54)	13.16(8.96)	5.17(5.03)	—	6.57(6.49)
Arlington (F)	217.0(188.0)	7.1(6.0)	2.2(1.55*)	—	—	3.42(3.13*)
Crescent Japan (I)	159(158)	0.007(0.13)	0.06(0.075)	NIL(0.01)	—	—
Davy Int (F)	297.4(204.0)	18.78(10.4)	30.9(19.2)	10(4.0)	—	15(9.5)
F.M.C. (F)	451.9(389.2)	3.1(0.91)	19.42(13.96)	6(2.5)	—	8(5.5)
Grindlays Blts (I)	—(—)	0.42(0.34)	5.3(4.0)	—	—	—
Hawthorn Shand (I)	—(—)	15.8(11.8)	—(—)	1.0(0.5)	2/10	(0.5)
Hillgrove M (F)	118.02(89.62)	3.07(0.84)	3.52(0.04)	0.47(0.24)	—	(2.6)(2.5*)
McNichells (I)	5.3(4.8)	0.67(0.51)	—(—)	0.57(0.51)	1/7	1.32(1.19)
Penland Inv (I)	109.9(80.12)	22.44(18.91)	5.15(4.60)	31/8	—	(10.25)
P. Pratt (I)	8.7(7.21)	0.36(0.31)	2.01(1.73)	0.87(0.87)	2/9	(3.4)
J. E. Sanger (F)	65.1(45.4)	1.1(1.5)	5.31(7.48)	2.65(2.65)	—	4.4(4.4)
Scd & M Inv (I)	—(—)	0.01(0.03)	—(—)	1.0(1.0)	19/8	(4.6)
Spencer (I)	1.87(1.43)	0.07(0.06)	5.76(4.98)	3.38(3.03)	—	(1.1)
Taylor Wood (I)	180.0(191.0)	7.6(7.5)	—(—)	1.91(1.8)	1/10	(6.8)
Wheeler's (F)	4.3(3.5)	3.2(2.7)	9.8(7.8)	1.8(1.2)	1/10	(3.2)
Wetherby S (F)	—(—)	0.52(0.37)	18.49(13.10)	2.9(3.15)	—	4.3(3.9*)
Woodlawn (I)	29.8(36.5)	3.1(1.9)	—(—)	—(—)	—	—
Woolworths (F)	—(—)	0.38(0.19)	—(—)	—(—)	—	—
Diversions in this table are shown net on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.515. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. *Adj for scrip issue. †Forecast. ‡Loss.						

Property market now 'more unduly based' says S & P

Brennan indicators have abandoned the property market according to Save & Prosper Group's Fund. Commenting on the fund's sixth report, S & P's property committee, chaired by Dennis Fischer, notes "a great emphasis in the investment market in the past two years". Five elements have dictated the market, he said, in 1971 and 1973, "have led, as pension funds and institutions now dominate the investment scene". S & P say the market is "more soundly based than for some time". S & P do not, perhaps understandably, go into the interesting concept of the institution as speculator.

Looking ahead S & P makes the point that "rental values cannot be dissociated from progress within the economy as a whole. But the current growing shortage of well-located shop, office and industrial space is their buying scope as available prime buildings become increasingly rare. Although the brokers remain cautious about the sector's outlook ahead of possible rising interest rates, their pick, British Land and Somerford (F), Taylor Wood (I) and Vantona (I) are all up 5.8 per cent. The portfolio is 43.2 per cent office and shop, 32.3 per cent retail and 25.5 per cent industrial.

S & P losses of Sanger reverse

hard Allen

lens in the United States of America, the international market, falling by 5.1m in the year to 31.

the same period the turnover, 80 per cent of overseas, leapt 43 to over 55m. Despite the setback the group's moral dividend of 6.77p gross, with a payment of 4.02p gross, a share are down from 53p.

Jim Sanger, chairman, has losses by the group's new American operation of £56.000 and were combination of poor States trading conditions management problems have made substantial in this area and all operations in the United States are now trading easily, he says, where the group's other divisions, without exception, substantial and improved while the group has high of its first move towards integration, the purchase earlier this month of 71.5% of Socold.

cal authority rulings y at 10 pc

rest rates on year-long remained unchanged at a year in the latest offer-

few district council is £500,000, Coweside £250,000, Brewash £500,000, Inverclyde £1m, Newport Borough £1.5m, City of Portsmouth £500,000, Waltham Forest £250,000, Springfield £250,000, and Newham Borough £200,000, Rotherham £100,000, South Lakeland District £500,000, Wakefield Metropolitan £250,000, Coventry City £250,000.

ger-term local authority include London Borough Council with a £1.2m 12 per cent bond, repayable in 1980, County Orkney Islands £1.5m, Tameside Metropoli-

£1.5m, the Frankfurt court had found in UDS' favour, he said.

MONTREAL'S \$200m

Substantial demand has led to a doubling in the size of the proposed \$100m Eurocurrency loan for Montreal Urban Community.

The seven-year loan will now be £200m and will carry a margin over interbank rates of 14 per cent for the first four years and 16 per cent bonds.

Norwest shares jump as Metrolands buys stake

Almost a quarter of the equity of Norwest Holt has changed hands. A private company called Metrolands Developments has acquired 23.57 per cent of the capital.

Norwest's shares jumped by 5p to 72p yesterday—so a bid could be on the way for the rest of the capital. Norwest is in civil engineering, building, housing and development. Earlier this year, the Department of Trade appointed two inspectors to conduct an inquiry into Norwest's affairs. The board decided to challenge the validity of the investigation in the courts. The matter is proceeding.

Sit-tight advice at Charringtons

The stock market prepared for a lively bid battle yesterday as Charrington Industrial Holdings advised shareholders to take up the offer from Laird Gordon.

Charringtons' shares added another 1p to 61p last night to stand almost 10p above the value of Laird's opening cash and share offer. Last night Mr Victor Wood, Charringtons' chairman, said that his board will not consider the bid until

UDS on road to recovery as sales on upward trend

The tide seems to have turned for UDS, the John Collier to Richard Shops retailer.

Having seen profits fall for the last two years, Mr. Bernard Lyons, chairman, told shareholders at the annual meeting yesterday that there had been an upward trend in sales in recent weeks, giving an increase as far this year of around 10 per cent. Provided current trading conditions continue there should be an improvement in year-end profits.

Referring to a claim made by a German associate against the firm of professional accountants in connection with the Bierbarts acquisition, the Frankfurt court had found in UDS' favour, he said.

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The seven-year loan will now be £200m and will carry a margin over interbank rates of 14 per cent for the first four years and 16 per cent bonds.

Briefly

for the remaining three. Lead manager was Chase Manhattan

BRITANNIC ASSURANCE

For half year to June 30 premium income in industrial branch £18.55m (£16.4m). Annual premiums in ordinary branch £2.06m (£2.65m). General branch £2.1m (£2.62m).

Sum assured ordinary branch £48.37m (£46.45m).

Industrial branch sums assured £71.78m (£65.99m).

COLD VALLEY WATER

Company says that 46.56 per cent of offer for 100,000 shares of £400 of 10 per cent red pre-strike stock 1984 left with underwriters, Brokers Seymour, Pierce & Co.

HAMPTON GOLD MINING

North Sea exploration has proved inconclusive and is absorbing most of group's net cash flow, a situation that has been remedied this year.

Costs hold back F. Pratt at midterm

By Our Financial Staff

Following the setback in 1975-76 when pre-tax profits fell from £1.34m to £1m—the F. Pratt Engineering Corporation is managing to make some small progress in the current 12 months.

Over turnover 17 per cent ahead of the second half of last year at £8.79m in the half-year to April 30, net pre-tax profits edged forward from £412,000 to £445,000.

The board describes the half-time profits as "disappointing". This is because margins have been eroded by continued cost inflation, while market forces have affected Pratt's ability to raise prices already held back by the restrictions of the Government Price Code.

However, as far as orders are concerned, Pratt finished at £6.4m on March 30, up from £5.7m at the end of 1975-76. Interake continues to be "satisfactory" and the current order book is over £7.3m.

The board reports that there is "encouraging evidence" of a steady improvement in the real volume of activity in most of the sectors of industry which the corporation serves.

There is, however, as yet no evidence of rising demand within the constructional steel industry. It expects an improvement in the second half-year.

The interim dividend, gross, is being lifted to 2.49p. This takes the accumulated maximum of 10 per cent permitted. It has also been increased by a small amount available in respect of 1975-76 following the reduction in the rate of ACT.

In his annual statement for 1975-76, the chairman, Mr. A. M. G. Caddick-Pratt, reported that there had been some occasions for qualified optimism in the preceding year. But the recovery was going to be hesitant throughout the western world. Prospects for 1977 were reasonably encouraging in the circumstances.

Big margin improvement as Davy International advances 75pc

By Desmond Quigley

Not content with a 75 per cent pre-tax profit increase at Davy International (excluding Head Wrightson), the market crooked the company's shares by 50 to 220p yesterday.

In the year to the end of last March, the pre-merger Davy International increased its pre-tax profits from £10.4m to £18.2m. Head Wrightson, taken in for a three-month period, added a further £600,000 to boost the total pre-tax profit to £28.8m.

Margins improved considerably with work done rising from £306m to £314m (excluding Head Wrightson). The pre-tax margin on work done was 3.4 per cent compared with 3.4 per cent of its business. The incidence of completed contracts can inflate the figures, where a real margin can be several areas.

Sir John Buckley, chairman of Davy International, said yesterday that the group now has an order book of £11.65m, of which more than £1.00m is accounted for by the original Davy International.

Among its major contracts is a very recent one for Occidental in the US and three other major

programmes are in Russia, South Africa and Brazil.

MARKET REPORTS

Commodities

COPPER remained fairly stable. Afternoon—Cash wire bars, £104.20 a metric ton; wire mesh, £104.20 a metric ton; wire rod, £104.20 a metric ton; cast, £104.20 a metric ton; morning—Cash wire bars, £104.20 a metric ton; wire mesh, £104.20 a metric ton; wire rod, £104.20 a metric ton; cast, £104.20 a metric ton. Settlement, £112. Sales: 17,900 mt. 1st quarter, 11,712 Sales.

SILVER was steady. Bullion market: Buying, £100.50; selling, £100.50; 1st quarter, 10,700 Sales; 1st quarter, 10,600 tons. Three months, £100.50; 1st quarter, 10,600 tons. Settlement, £100.50; 1st quarter, 10,600 tons.

LEAD was quiet. Afternoon—Cash wire bars, £104.20 a metric ton; wire mesh, £104.20 a metric ton; wire rod, £104.20 a metric ton; cast, £104.20 a metric ton. Settlement, £104.20 a metric ton. Sales: 1st quarter, 10,600 tons. 1st quarter, 10,600 tons.

ALUMINUM market: Cash wire bars, £104.20 a metric ton; wire mesh, £104.20 a metric ton; wire rod, £104.20 a metric ton; cast, £104.20 a metric ton. Settlement, £104.20 a metric ton. Sales: 1st quarter, 10,600 tons. 1st quarter, 10,600 tons.

IRON prices were steady. Cash wire bars, £104.20 a metric ton; wire mesh, £104.20 a metric ton; wire rod, £104.20 a metric ton; cast, £104.20 a metric ton. Settlement, £104.20 a metric ton. Sales: 1st quarter, 10,600 tons. 1st quarter, 10,600 tons.

COFFEE made a further slight climb. Afternoon—Cash wire bars, £104.20 a metric ton; wire mesh, £104.20 a metric ton; wire rod, £104.20 a metric ton; cast, £104.20 a metric ton. Settlement, £104.20 a metric ton. Sales: 1st quarter, 10,600 tons. 1st quarter, 10,600 tons.

SUGAR markets were fairly steady. The cash price was unchanged at £111.00 a metric ton; wire mesh was unchanged at £111.00 a metric ton; wire rod was unchanged at £111.00 a metric ton; cast was unchanged at £111.00 a metric ton. Settlement, £111.00 a metric ton. Sales: 1st quarter, 10,600 tons. 1st quarter, 10,600 tons.

LEAD was quiet. Afternoon—Cash wire bars, £104.20 a metric ton; wire mesh, £104.20 a metric ton; wire rod, £104.20 a metric ton; cast, £104.20 a metric ton. Settlement, £104.20 a metric ton. Sales: 1st quarter, 10,600 tons. 1st quarter, 10,600 tons.

CHICKEN MEAT was steady. Afternoon—Cash wire bars, £104.20 a metric ton; wire mesh, £104.20 a metric ton; wire rod, £104.20 a metric ton; cast, £104.20 a metric ton. Settlement, £104.20 a metric ton. Sales: 1st quarter, 10,600 tons. 1st quarter, 10,600 tons.

MAIZE—No 3 yellow American.

Eurobond prices (midday indicators)

	BID	OFFER
US \$ STRAIGHTS	103	104
ATCO 8/1 1983	102	103
British Gas 9/1981	103	103
CGC 7/1981	101	101
Esso 10/1983	104	104
Hillman 1/1983	101	101
Hillman 2/1983	101	101
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Hillman 6/1997	101	101
Hillman 7/1997	101	101
Hillman 8/1997	101	10

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OFTEN COVENT GARDEN
GARDEN CITY CO. Ltd., require
a good secretarial skills and cheery
disposition. 9 a.m. start
home at 4.30 p.m. £2,000 of
£2,300 p.a. Phone 493 2237 for
interviews.

GREECE, GR. 22-28, needed now
Oct. 1 to run Villa Party. Cook-
ing experience essential. Phone
Mama at Small World. 01-240
3253.

INTERIOR DECORATORS in May-
June. Good opportunities for 20+
good secretarial skills and cheer-
ful disposition. 9 a.m. start
home at 4.30 p.m. £2,000 of
£2,300 p.a. Phone 493 2237 for
interviews.

JOYCE GUINNESS BUREAU
21 BRONPTON ARCADE
KNIGHTSBRIDGE, S.W.3
Bronpton Arcade is a few
steps from Sloane Square Station. Sloane St. East.
539 8807 or 589 0010

THE place for two jobs

£3,400-AUDIO/SH. SEC.

The Company Secretary of a
firm of architects needs an
interesting responsible and
well-qualified personal assistant
to handle all financial and telephone
work. Must be experienced in
accounts and a sense of
responsibility.

Write to Mr. Alfred Marks, Bureau
151 Regent St., W.1.

PUBLISHERS ASSISTANT/SEC.

Required for a firm of
publishers.

SECRETARY, W.1. Publicity Director
for a firm of publishers. Tel.
0731-405 1844.

W.1. BOOK SHOP

wants girl or man to join small
team. Girls to St. George's Gallery,
8 Duke Street, S.W.1.

White Aces Ltd.

Managerial-Administrative-Secretarial-Personal Assistants

PARTNER'S SECRETARY

£2,500 p.a.

An extremely nice Partner of
a professional firm near
Lewisham, Kent, is looking
for a Secretary to take an
active role and competent
with computer. There will be
good working conditions, so a pleasant, helpful
attitude is essential. Retail
skills are essential.

Crone Corkill

(Personal Consultants)

826 4025

W.1. and TRAVEL!

Interest in Conference organization
and travel. Good opportunities
to join small team, prepared
to work hard, good pay and
conditions. Previous experience
not important.

Write to Mr. Eddie Mackay
Business Traveling and
Travel Agents, 5 Hare Street,
W.1. 01-629 0983.

£4,000 Bookkeeper/Secretary

A Busy Clinic in Bond St.
wishes to employ a well-groomed
person to work in non-commercial
matters, etc. are invited to
apply.

For further details phone
Barbara Fairlight, 493 1251.

AL-FED MARKS BUREAU

01-636 2116/7/8

INTERVIEWER/CONSULTANT

Required for small, highly
specialized, fast growing
consultancy, covering
various fields. No previous
experience required. Un-
biased, objective, independent
and dynamic. Good remuneration.

Please phone Linnetts

71 New Bond Street, London W1
01-493 6456

DR AND PHYSIO TEAM REQUIRE

CAPABLE SECRETARY

for private practice. W1. Salary
according to experience.

PLEASE CONTACT
MR MCKENNA
488 1472, 01-493 6456
FOR ALL DETAILS

£4,000 P.A.

Sec. P.A. for M.D. English
(Frenchman) and General Manager
International Trading Co. E.C.3.

STELLA FISHER BUREAU,

110 Strand, W.C.2.

039 6644

INTERVIEWER/CONSULTANT

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MORE VACANCIES also on page 27

SECRETARIAL

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Experienced Medical Secretary

Applications are invited for a challenging position in a progressive Wigmore Street practice. Conditions and career structure are totally dependent upon the individual who will have nursing qualifications.

The successful applicant will be dealing with a wide spectrum of life involving patients of various nations, doctors, surgeons and technicians. Interesting varied future in a friendly atmosphere, 4 weeks holiday (arrangements honoured), salary very negotiable from £3,000.

PLEASE TEL 01-935 2635

PUBLIC NOTICES

INCHCAPE INSURANCE HOLDINGS LIMITED

Inchcape Holdings announce that Mr. Guy
Hodgson, a Director of Inchcape Overseas, has
been appointed to the Board of Inchcape Insurance Holdings
and becomes Chairman of Bain Davies Overseas
Holdings and "Bain" Davies Underwriting Management
as from 31st July, 1977.

Mr. Neil Matthews will retire from the Board and
from the Board of Bain Davies on 30th September
1977. As from that date he will take up his new
appointment as Insurance Manager for the P. & O. Group,
but will continue to act as a Consultant to Bain
Davies.

Sir Edward Studd, Bt., has been appointed to the
Board of Bain Davies on 30th September 1977.

Mr. Alan Long,
Director.

DOMESTIC AND CATERING SITUATIONS

Resident Matron-Housekeeper

Required from the end of September at Windfield Place.

Must be a responsible person, aged 40-50 years and able to drive. Some nursing experience desirable but not essential.

Apply: Secretary, Windfield Place, Mr. Windsor, Berk's Telephone: London 2004.

AU-PAIR FOR SWITZERLAND REQUIRED IN SEPTEMBER

For Louisian area. Very good driver. Right housework to look after children. Good opportunity to learn French. Min. 1 year. Living in with family. Phone: 839 8030/584 3941 (evening).

EXPERIENCED UNDER BUTLER

Required for Wilton Crescent, S.W.1.

Superior salary and accommodation including bathroom. H.C. Bradfield, 22 Cartisie Lane, S.W.1. Tel.: 01-562 1234.

MARRIED COUPLE

Required as Cook and Housekeeper in maid and maid's room. Would consider two sisters or husband and wife. One part employed. Good food and accommodation.

Tel. Mrs Murray at 01-481 1787, reverence charges.

BRITISH or Filipino couple to work as House-keepers and Butler for small London flat. Apply: Mrs. Parvin, 297 Kew Green, Richmond, Surrey TW10 5JL. Tel. 01-940 5200.

REGRADA. Cook housekeeper for small flat. Own car. References. Good references essential. Tel. 333 4024.

AU-PAIR BUREAU, Piccadilly, offers best local London flats. Tel. 317 Regent St. Tel. 01-520 4757

AU-PAIRS available from Sept. Also available for part-time work from Sept. 1st. Mrs & Guest Services Ltd., 773 1789 (office)

CORDED WANTED, maid August one month, for young couple. Must be married. Own car needed. Tel. 01-731 8807.

CORDON BLEU COOK, 2 weeks. August, shooting lodge. Scotland.

ENGLISH LADY, age 23, children, Italian family, best terms to teach English. Girls 8 and 10. Tel. 01-409 4000. Apply to Dr. Vito, 10, Strand, WC2R 2EE.

ENGLISH-SPEAKING girl, 30-33, English-speaking family. Tel. 01-520 4000. Apply to: Miss Elizabeth, 12, Portland Place, London, S.W.1.

ENGLISH SECRETARY. We require to start work immediately until end of September or October. Tel. 01-562 1234.

PORTER REQUIRED. Sale charge new hotel. Immediate accommodation. Tel. 01-503 7874.

WORKING-HOUSEKEEPER, Eng. Govt. Dept. Agency, 30871, London Rd., Harrow, Tel. 01-5371.

DOMESTIC AND CATERING SITUATIONS

LOOK NO FURTHER

SD, Susan Days Agency (Established over 30 years).

For Nurses, Cooks, Gardeners etc. Our new advertising service can apply the position or if you are seeking

P.A.T.

38 Endicott St., Salisbury, Tel: 0363

For All the Best Domestic Positions at Home & Abroad.

RESIDENT COOK FOR FRIENDLY FAMILY

Including 3 girls under 5 yrs Nancy CO. Would have help during day, although daily cleaning duties come in. Beautiful house, West London. 30 mins. Driver preferred, sense of humour and references essential.

Apply: Secretary, Windfield Place, Mr. Windsor, Berk's Telephone: London 2004.

WEEKEND COOK

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To place an advertisement in any of these categories, tel:

PRIVATE ADVERTISERS ONLY

01-837 3311

APPOINTMENTS

01-278 9151

PROPERTY ESTATE AGENTS

01-278 9231

PERSONAL TRADE

01-278 9351

MANCHESTER OFFICE

051-334 1234

Querries in connection with advertisements that have appeared, other than cancellations or alterations, tel:

Classified Queries Dept.

01-837 1234 Ext. 7180

Animals and Birds

01-837 2248

Business to Business

01-837 2248

Domestics and Catering

01-837 2248

Education

01-837 2248

Employments

01-837 2248

Fish Sharing

01-837 2248

La crème de la crème

01-837 2248

Legal Notice

01-837 2248

Property

01-837 2248

Salerooms and Antiques

01-837 2248

Secretarial and Non-Secretarial Appointments

01-837 2248

Services

01-837 2248

Ships Wanted

01-837 2248

Gold No. replies should be addressed to:

The Times

P.O. Box 1

Newgate Street, London EC4

Gray's Inn Square,

London WC1X 8EE

Deadline for cancellations and alterations to classified advertisements is 11.00 hrs prior to the day before publication.

For example, if Monday's issue the deadline is 12 noon on Friday.

Step Number will be issued to the advertiser.

Querries in connection with the cancellation, this Step Number must be quoted.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR AD. We make every effort to avoid errors in advertisements. Each one is carefully checked and proof read. When thousands of advertisements are handled each day we ask therefore that you check your ad and, if you spot an error, report it to the Classified Queries department immediately by telephoning 01-837 1234 (Ext. 7180). We regret that we cannot be responsible for more than one day's incorrect insertion if you do not.

"THE LORD biddeth how to deliver the good news to temples." 2 Cor. 1:14.

BIRTHS

ALLEN—On July 20, at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, Holborn, to June, nee Lister, and Simon—**John**.

CRASHER—On July 21, to Robin and Tom—**Charlotte**.

DIXIE—On July 21, in Deptford, to Shirley and Alan—**James**.

MOTTRAM—On 24th July, at Northgate, Parkgate, to Peter—**Pauline**.

ENDERBY—On July 21, at 27th, at St. John's, Chelmsford, to Peter—**John**, wife of Peter Charles Enderby—**John**.

HALFORD—On June 16th, 1977, to John and Valerie—**son**.

JEFFRIES—On June 16, to Christopher and Stephan—**Jasmine**.

MOTTRAM—On 24th July, at Northgate, Parkgate, to Peter—**Pauline**.

ENDERBY—On July 21, at 27th, at St. John's, Chelmsford, to Peter—**John**, wife of Peter Charles Enderby—**John**.

SHUCKBURGH—On July 21, 1977, at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, Holborn, to Julianne and Alan—**daughter**.

SMITH—On July 21, to Janet and John Read, and William—a son—**Joseph**.

BIRTHS

HUTCHINSON—On July 21st, at 11th, at Weston-super-Mare—a new baby girl—**new**.

THOMSON-MOORE—On July 21st, at 11th, at Weston-super-Mare, to Gillie—**daughter**—**Alexandra**.

WHITE—On July 21st, at St. Michael's Hospital, Liverpool, to Peter—**Denise**, **Rosie**, **Gillian**—**and** a daughter—**Amelia**.

WYLLIE—On July 21st, at Harrow, to Michael and Charles—**second son**.

ZIEGLER—On 3rd July, to Jim and Zog—**son**—**Dougal**.

BIRTHDAYS

HAPPY 1ST BIRTHDAY—Peter—**Stephen**.

YESTERDAY DONNA MORRIS—**comes** an exquisite 21—**Congratu-**

lating—**Family**.

MARRIAGES

AINES—MILL—On July 21st, at St. Andrew's Church, Bradford-on-Avon, to Alan and Linda—**children** to Sonja, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Ainsworth.

CHADWICK—**MATHIESON**—On July 21st, at St. John the Evangelist, Farnham, to Michael, son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Mathieson.

JENNINGS—**JONES**—On July 21st, at Victoria, Peter, younger son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Willmott, of Cheshire, Willmott, to Christine, Willmott, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. Willmott, of Cheshire.

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DEATHS

TOWNSEND—On July 21st, Bertha Alice, wife of Brynford Townsend, Southwark, died at her home, 102, St. George's Road, Lambeth, on July 21st, aged 83 years.

WHITE—On July 21st, at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Liverpool, to Michael and John—**sons**.

WYLLIE—On July 21st, at Harrow, to Michael and John—**sons**.

ZIEGLER—On 3rd July, to Jim and Zog—**son**—**Dougal**.

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